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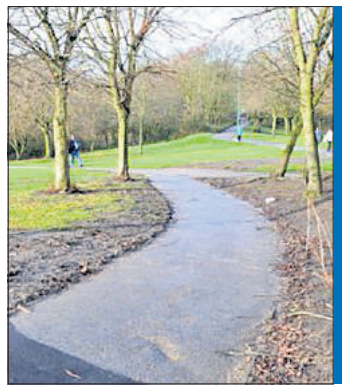

Community invited to join clean-up campaign

Council tax to rise by 3.47%

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

COUNCIL tax in West Lancashire is set to rise by just under 3.5% in total with the borough council increasing its charge by 2.68% in a bid to help save £1million this year.

The authority outlined their 2017/18 budget after making key decisions at the full council meeting on Wednesday, February 22.

They will be spending £75,000 on maintaining CCTV cameras across the borough for the next three years; a green waste charge of £30 will be implemented for those who want to continue using the service; and £35,000 will be spent on further works on Moor Street in Ormskirk.

The authority's 2.68% council tax increase works out at around £5 a year more for an average Band D property.

Other decisions made at the meeting include continuing to invest money to improve online digital services to make them better for the customer and help the council save money in the future; continuing funding for voluntary groups; and extending their scheme providing reduced-cost aqua-fun sessions during the summer for a further year.

As a result of reductions in government grant funding and other factors, the council needs to make £1million savings in 2017/18, set to double to £2m a year from 2018/19 onwards. They have already made savings of more than £5milllion per year for the last five years.

Council leader Ian Moran, portfolio holder for transformation and economic development, explained that the council was making a good return on solar panels which have been installed on around 10% of its 6,500 properties and that the government's staff pension fund is being run more effectively, saving around £190,000 for the next year.

He also said that in the past, the council

Continued inside

Sacked hospital chief talks *exclusively* to the Champion

I'LL TAKE CASE ALL THE WAY TO HIGH COURT, SAYS PARRY

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

THE sacked chief executive of Southport & Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust has told the Champion he will take his dismissal appeal all the way to the High Court.

In an exclusive interview with the Champion, Jonathan Parry, said he is meeting with lawyers this week to discuss a legal challenge against the trust's decision to uphold his sacking.

He also said he stands by the managerial decisions he made while in charge of the trust – a position he held for 28 years.

Mr Parry was sacked for seven counts of gross misconduct - later reduced to five counts following an appeal hearing - in October last year after a lengthy and costly investigation into the conduct of himself and three other top bosses at the trust.

> 'Despite the outcome of my appeal, I am content to stand by the managerial decisions I have made'

His colleague Sharon Partington, the now retired head of human resources, was also sacked as a result.

Both of them appealed the decision but it was announced last week that their sacking would be upheld.

The Champion understands that none of the four bosses who were originally suspended were allowed to officially know why, on the grounds that the information may reveal who the whistleblowers are. Mr Parry told the Champion: "I'm very disappointed."

"Despite the outcome of my appeal I am content to stand by the managerial decisions I have made.

"I am limited in what I can say publicly at this time as I am in discussions with my lawyers about a challenge to the disciplinary process and appeal outcome, through the High Court.

"I am proud of what I have achieved over the last 36 years as a senior manager in the National Health Service and I feel especially privileged to have led the Trust for 28 years when the current average tenure of a CEO in the NHS is less than two years."

Mr Parry revealed that whatever the final outcome of his dismissal is, he has taken the decision

Continued inside

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Civic couple to attend Prince's Trust handover

THE Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage, and her consort, Councillor Noel Delaney, will be among the guests at the Ormskirk Prince's Trust community handover event to be held at Burscough Cricket Club, School Lane on Friday, March 3 at 1.50pm

Residents' comments wanted on new Local Plan for borough

Council cabinet approves public consultation on 'extremely important document'

WEST Lancs Council's cabinet has approved proposals to consult with the public on a new Local Plan for the borough and is seeking residents' views as preparations are started for what the authority described as 'this extremely important document.'

A Local Plan aims to guide how the borough develops over a specific time period and can cover everything from where new homes, employment sites and retail and leisure facilities should be situated, to policies on transport, local services, energy and the environment.

Although the current Local Plan covers up to 2027, the council is in the early stages of forming its next plan.

And it is asking local people to comment on a number of significant topics which will shape how the plan develops.

The Scoping and Issues & Options Consultation includes the following:

- What topics the Local Plan should cover.
- How much housing and employment land development will be required each year.
- What period of time the Local Plan should cover.

Councillor John Hodson

- Scenarios on how new development should be spread across the borough.
- Consideration of the infrastructure required to support new development.

In total there are five options papers that residents can read and give their views on.

They also cover other important issues such as the economy; environmental and social issues such as affordable housing; issues related to an ageing population; and provision of student and traveller accommodation.

Councillor John Hodson, the council's portfolio holder for planning, said: "I would urge people living and working in West Lancashire to take part in this consultation as this will influence how the new Local Plan takes shape. This will in time dictate how the new Local Plan guides development in West Lancashire."

The consultation will start on Thursday, March 16 and residents will be able to view all relevant documents and complete the official survey at www.westlancs.gov.uk/localplan from that date.

Closing date for people to respond is Friday, April 28.

The documents can also be viewed at the council offices at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, and the customer service point at the Concourse Shopping Centre, Skelmersdale, as well as at libraries in the borough.

For further information on the consultation email the council's strategic planning and implementation team at localplan@westlancs.gov.uk or call 01695 585194.

All reasonable comments received will be considered in taking the Local Plan forward.

Winners with the Champ...

THE five lucky winners in the Champion's competition for a pair of tickets to see award-winning musical, *Rent*, at the Liverpool Empire were: Jo Rotheram from Ormskirk; Rachel Brown and Barry Hills, both from Bootle; and Carl Thomas and Lynn Cunningham, both from Southport.

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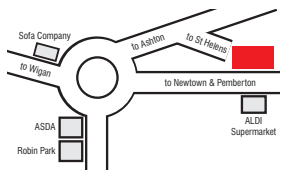

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Dismissed hospital boss set to challenge decision in High Court

From Page 1

to retire at the age of 58. But he vowed to continue to campaign for the 'fundamental principles' of the NHS.

He said: "I sincerely hope that everyone will continue to fight to maintain local services of a high quality, in the face of attempts to reduce the range and acuteness of services in Southport and Ormskirk.

"I regret that I and my executive colleagues cannot lead that cause from inside the trust.

"I have always supported the founding principles of the NHS, defined as available to all according to need and free at the point of use, and I will continue to campaign for those fundamental principles as a newly-retired, but long-term, resident of Southport."

Thanks

On his sacking, Mr Parry told the Champion: "My family and I would like to thank our friends, colleagues and trust staff, past and present, who have supported us over the last eighteen months of the investigation and disciplinary process.

"I would like to formally record my thanks to all trust staff who have worked tirelessly, often in difficult circumstances, to care for patients and relatives and to continuously improve services, both clinical and non-clinical."

Mr Parry, who was on a salary of £150,000 as chief executive of the hospital trust, was dismissed after more than a year suspended on full pay.

Despite calls for NHS chiefs to reveal why Mr Parry was ever suspended, along with three senior colleagues, in August 2015, they have remained silent.

It could be the case that the facts will only ever emerge if and when Mr Parry takes his dismissal to the High Court.

Borough's council tax to rise by 3.47%

From Page 1

would have aimed to make around 5% in interest on their reserves, but that they now make more by investing them into property and solar panels.

He explained that they were bringing in the green bin charge now to make necessary savings ahead of central government funding cuts doubling next year. He said that West Lancs was one of the last councils in the North West to bring in the charge.

Council leader Councillor Ian Moran

The green waste service costs the council £1.3million and the charge is expected to raise around £0.5m or £0.6m, meaning that there will still be an expected shortfall of £0.7m or £0.8m for the authority to fund.

Funding for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) has also been given the green light by the borough council after discussions with Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw.

The council will also continue its corporate membership of the Liverpool Local Enterprise Partnership and will become a member of Growth Lancashire, which provides support to small and medium-sized businesses.

Overall council tax will increase by 3.47% this year bringing the annual cost for an average Band D property to £1,644.45.

This includes charges by Lancashire County Council (up by 3.99%) Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service (no increase) and Lancashire Constabulary (up by 1.99%).

Councillor Chris Wynn, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for finance, added: "The government is reducing our funding and many costs are rising which has meant we have had to make some difficult decisions. However we are maintaining our front-line services that are so important to local people and protecting jobs."

MP wants 'full disclosure' on sacking saga

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

THE full details surrounding the sacking of two hospital bosses for gross misconduct should now be revealed, says West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper.

While Southport MP John Pugh, called for hospital staff to put the 'sorry episode' behind them.

Both were reacting immediately after hearing of the appeal verdict, but before learning of former chief executive Jonathan Parry's decision to challenge his sacking in the High Court, as exclusively revealed in the Champion this week.

Bosses at the Town Lane-based trust revealed last week that an independent panel rejected an appeal by Jonathan Parry and former human resources boss Sharon Partington, to overturn their sacking decisions following an investigation into gross misconduct claims.

Mr Parry was dismissed in October 2016 for gross misconduct.

A disciplinary panel had reviewed 21 allegations of misconduct. It found evidence on 11 counts of misconduct, seven of which amounted to gross misconduct.

The appeal panel, however, determined that Mr Parry's appeal was upheld in part, finding that, of the 11 counts of misconduct originally upheld, five amounted to gross misconduct and the remaining six amounted to misconduct.

Rosie Cooper MP

Mrs Partington chose to retire from the trust's employment prior to the conclusion of the disciplinary process. However, due to the nature of the allegations and her seniority, the trust was obliged to complete the disciplinary process, asking a disciplinary panel to consider what, if any action, would have been taken if the individuals had remained employed by the trust.

Following Mrs Partington's disciplinary hearing, it was determined that she would have been dismissed as a consequence of gross misconduct had she remained in employment.

Speaking after the appeal verdict, John Pugh said: "Finally this marathon has run out of steam.

"Everyone at the hospital now needs, and I am sure wants, to put this sorry episode behind us."

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is calling on the trust to reveal the full details behind the sackings.

She said: "I am pleased this lengthy investigation into whistleblowing allegations made against senior executives has been concluded for the good of Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, its staff and the patients it serves.

"The priority for the hospital trust now is to find a talented chief executive with a passion for delivering the best quality healthcare and who is capable of tackling head-on the financial and organisational challenges the trust faces.

"I have written to the hospital trust requesting that they now take the opportunity to answer all the outstanding questions on this case.

"For a start, what are the accusations leading to disciplinary action and dismissals?

"Why was the process so lengthy? And what is the cost of the investigation and disciplinary action?

"As a taxpayer-funded service there are legitimate public interest concerns the trust has to satisfactorily address and I would encourage them to do so in as open and transparent a way as possible."

The Champion understands that the details cannot be revealed as yet due to fears that the dismissed staff could launch an external legal challenge, as Mr Parry seems determined to do.

Appeal for information after teenager suffers serious injuries in collision with car

POLICE are appealing for information after a teenage girl suffered multiple injuries following a collision with a car in Skelmersdale.

The 17-year-old was crossing Church Road just before 8pm on Wednesday, February 22 when she was hit by a Vauxhall Corsa car.

She suffered serious multiple injuries and was taken to Aintree Hospital where she is currently in the intensive care unit.

Following the incident the road was closed for three-and-a-half hours while officers carried out an accident investigation.

Sergeant Andy Walton, of the Road Policing Unit, said: "This collision has left a teenage girl with very serious injuries and I would appeal to anyone with information or who witnessed the collision, to get in touch."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101.

Concerns grow for man missing from home since February 19

CONCERNS are growing for the welfare of a 32-year-old man who has gone missing from his home in Skelmersdale.

Kirk Evans was last seen at around 11pm on Sunday, February 19 at his home address in Whitburn.

He was not in the house the following morning when his family woke up and has not been seen or heard from since.

PC Ian Beattie, of Skelmersdale Police, said: "We are extremely worried about Kirk as this is completely out of character. We would ask anybody who has seen him, or knows where he may be, to contact us immediately.

"Similarly we would urge Kirk himself, if he sees this appeal, to get in touch to let us know he is safe."

Kirk is described as white, around 6ft 2ins tall, of large build, with short, light-brown hair which is thinning. He is clean-shaven and has a tattoo of stars on his neck.

He was last seen wearing grey jogging bottoms, a black cotton coat and glasses.

Kirk also has links to Mold in North Wales, where he lives part-time.

Anybody with information about his whereabouts is asked to contact police on 101.

Kirk Evans has been missing from home since February 19

Work on rail station could start in five years, says councillor

COUNTY Councillor for Skelmersdale West, Julie Gibson, has secured confirmation of the next steps for the town's proposed railway station and says construction could start in five or six years.

She said: "Like many in the town I was delighted at the announcement of the preferred site and at the recent full council meeting of Lancashire County Council I asked cabinet member for highways and transport, Councillor John Fillis what were the next steps.

County Councillor Julie Gibson

"Cllr Fillis outlined that the next step would be to clear the Glenburn site of all buildings and a Guide to Rail Investment Process (GRIP 3a). This is an engineering study which will take approximately 18 months to complete and will look in detail at ground conditions, timetabling and track alignment.

"While 18 months may seem a long time it is vital that this time is spent on the study as completion will enable the county council and its partners to have a much clearer idea of the overall scheme and the costs associated."

Cllr. Gibson added: "The design and development of the project will take a number of years but Cllr. Fillis has confirmed that at this stage it would be possible for Network Rail to start construction work in five or six years' time.

Opportunities

"This is fantastic news for the people of Skelmersdale and will coincide with the town centre development which will bring new opportunities to the town.

"A project board has been set up to give strategic direction and includes partners Merseyrail, Merseytravel, West Lancashire Borough Council, Northern and Network Rail.

"Working with our partners we aim to deliver a train station that will see Skelmersdale link with Manchester, Liverpool and Preston; a hub that will enable people to go out to work and play and bring people into stay. This is a very exciting time for the people of Skelmersdale and West Lancashire. The train station will bring economic benefits to the whole of the borough and provide a key connection for motorway and rail traffic."

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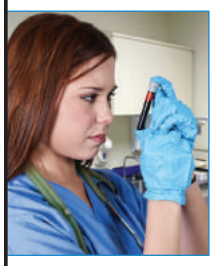

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January benefits claimants slightly down on last year

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit (UC) in West Lancashire in January was marginally down on last year.

Figures published by the Office For National Statistics show that in January 2017 there were 1,275 residents receiving unemployment benefits, compared to 1,310 in January 2016, a decrease of 3%.

The number of 18 to 24-year-olds claiming JSA and UC in the borough has fallen 4% from 340 in January 2016 to 325 in January 2016.

Clive Morris, spokesman for JobCentre Plus said: "The trend in West Lancs mirrors the national picture and shows that fewer people are claiming unemployment benefits. This is because employers are continuing to recruit staff and JobCentre Plus are also working to prepare unemployed people for the job vacancies and opportunities that exist."

Mr Morris added that employment rates are at their highest since records began in 1971. Nationally the figure is 74.6%.

He also said that nationally the unemployment rate for the second month is at its lowest figure for 11 years and is 4.8%.

In the North West unemployment fell by 7,000 in the three-month period from October to December, 2016. Figures from the Office for National Statistics show that during this time 180,000 people were unemployed.

Secretary of State, Damian Green, said: "With employment at its highest rate since records began, and unemployment at its lowest in over a decade, we remain in a position of strength. It's good news in the North West where the number of women in work has risen by 60,000 over the past year to a record high of 1.65 million women in work."

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Plans unveiled for new council homes and new bathrooms for 450 other properties

WEST Lancs Council has unveiled plans for new council homes in Beechtrees and the intallation of new bathrooms in 450 other properties in the borough.

The schemes were approved at the council meeting on Wednesday, February 22, when members met to agree the Housing Revenue Account budget for the 2017/18 financial year.

The council's housing account is funded from money raised through rents and service charges to provide services for council tenants and leaseholders.

Decisions made by the government mean that the rents for council tenants will reduce by 1% in 2017/18. This annual reduction of 1% will continue for tenants in both general needs and sheltered council accommodation until 2019/20.

The council has said they have worked hard to minimise the impact of this savings requirement and has agreed a budget that protects services and features "exciting investment schemes next year".

The Beechtrees Revival scheme will see a host of improvements to the estate in Digmoor, Skelmersdale including 36 new homes being built.

The council added that this represents "significant extra investment" in the Revival Project, as the original plans included 14 new homes.

The 22 extra new homes will be built on land where the council plans to demolish an additional six detached blocks and is expected to start later in 2017. Landscaping works will be included around the newly-built houses with the aim of making the area look even more attractive.

Councillor Jennifer Patterson, portfolio holder for housing

These homes represent the third new batch of council housing provided by the authority in recent years and the council is looking at more opportunities to build new homes in the future. Other improvements planned for the flats that will remain on Beechtrees will include new kitchens, bathrooms and heating, as well as replacement windows and doors.

Councillor Jennifer Patterson, the council's cabinet member for housing and landlord services, said: "We are very excited about the updated Beechtrees Revival scheme. The additional homes means the scheme will have the biggest possible impact on the estate to help improve the lives of tenants.

"Revitalising our estates and improving homes are key priorities in the Council Plan."

The Housing and Inclusion programme for the next 12 months also includes a project on digital inclusion with West Lancashire Council for Voluntary Service. As more and more services are offered online, this project will aim to help tenants and other residents become more digitally aware so they are able to make the most of the opportunities that being 'connected' has to offer.

The key schemes for 2017/18 include:

- Installing 450 new bathrooms (not including the ones planned for Beechtrees).
- Providing £642,000 to spend on disabled adaptations so people can live in their homes longer and have a better quality of life.
- £770,000 on remedial works to walls such as pointing and repairs.
- Spending £927,000 on upgrading electrics in many authority homes.
- Investing £1.286m on roofing work, targeting flat roofs and replacing fascias and gutters.
- Investing £602,000 in improving heating in a number of council properties with more efficient modern systems.
- £293,000 for improvements for communal areas.

Council tenants in flats which have communal heating systems will also benefit from a 2% reduction in heating charges.

Commissioner reveals 2% increase in police precept

LANCASHIRE'S police and crime commissioner Clive Grunshaw has revealed an increase of almost 2% in the county's police precept to raise £1.4million over the next year.

He announced the decision to help the force offset government cuts following an extensive engagement with 4,000 members of the public which saw almost 75% of those spoken to supporting the move.

The increase was approved by the Police and Crime Commissioner's Panel and will be added to council tax bills issued from April.

The police precept forms part of residents' council tax bills, providing approximately a quarter of the total funding for the force – and the increase will fund the equivalent of around 26 police officers.

Mr Grunshaw said: "Lancashire residents have once again shown their full support and appreciation for the work of our police in backing this proposed increase.

"Sadly, year-on-year the money that Lancashire receives from the government is going down, which is bound to have a major impact on our policing services.

Clive Grunshaw

"Since 2010 Lancashire Constabulary have worked hard to deliver savings of over £76 million but we have seen officer numbers fall as a result.

"As the voice of the public in policing I will continue to lobby ministers and make the case to Lancashire MPs to halt further reductions in our budget so we can meet the priorities set out in my Police and Crime Plan."

Men-Aces couple brave elements in Tag Team warm-up for marathon fundraiser

Report by **Henry James**

MANAGER of the Skem Men-Aces disability football team, Carl Eaton and his wife, Mim, battled the elements when they took part in the Tag Team Marathon in Warrington at the weekend.

The couple competed in the event as part of their preparations for the Greater Manchester Marathon to be held on Sunday, April 2.

Carl and Mim are hoping to raise £10,000 in sponsorship by completing the Manchester event so that they can take the whole Men-Aces squad on an adventure weekend.

It emerged when the squad went to the Belfast Football tournament last year that the majority of them had never had a holiday.

Mim Eaton said: "For the last five months of training through hail, rain and snow we have endured mile after mile, and blister after blister.

"We have also worked out what works and what doesn't.

"Carl is in a wheelchair because he suffers with Spina Bifida and is also a leg amputee, and we are both in our 50s, so it's been a journey and a challenge.

"However it's something we are passionate about and we want to take the lads on holiday for the experience."

Mim and Carl Eaton with Gary Jones at the Warrington Tag Team Marathon

Carl and Mim had the help of Gary Jones, from Aughton at the Warrington event and Mim added: "We had a test this Sunday in Warrington and it certainly was a test. We had to get the pace right.

"I'm not allowed to touch the wheelchair and feeding Carl the water was a struggle at first - I soaked him a few times.

"When competing, Carl goes through a pair of gloves every five miles and suffers when it's raining or if it's windy.

"Even the best marathon runners added many minutes to their personal best but we put miles and notches on our belts.

"The Men-Aces is a football team for adults with learning difficulties and are no strangers to going that extra mile. Each year sees them enduring immense challenges to help raise awareness and funds for a local charity. This year they are going to complete a 1,000 mile triathlon."

Anyone wishing to support Carl and Mim's Manchester Marathon challenge, or the triathlon can call 07506 458 716. The couple are looking for donations that they can use in goody bags after the triathlon.

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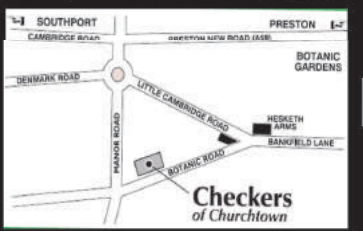


Opening Times
Mon-Sat 9am-6pm
Sun 10am-4pm

Educational trip proves moving experience for RE students

STUDENTS and teachers from Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College have undertaken a four-day religious education visit to the Polish city of Krakow where they visited Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Although the trip included a guided tour of the city and a chance to experience Polish culture and cuisine, the main focus was the history of the Holocaust.

Trip leader and RE teacher Heather Roby explained that the emotional impact for the 26 learners and their subsequent reflection, far exceeded expectations and they were really moved by the experience.

Learners visited the Galacia museum where they listened to the testimony of a Holocaust survivor and learned about pre-war Jewish life.

The following day they visited the extermination camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau where most were moved to tears.

Message

The learners who travelled to Auschwitz are now expected to act as ambassadors for an 'in-school' project.

The aim is to design and implement ways in which, through assemblies and 'guest talks' to other classes, they can spread the message of the importance of tolerance and the dangers of discrimination.

The staff and students from Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College who took part in the Krakow visit

Artists club seeking new recruits

OFFICIALS of a local art group are seeking to recruit new members.

The Up Holland Artists group has been established for more than 20 years and would welcome both beginners and more experienced artists of all ages interested in joining.

Although the group is untutored, members are always willing to offer help and advice and the meetings give artists the opportunity to socialise, swap ideas and improve their skill.

Regular demonstrations, guest art tutors and trips to places of artistic interest are also held.

A spokesman for the group said: "Being able to observe professional artists who come and demonstrate their skills and see how members use different mediums in their paintings and how their work develops is a great inspiration."

Previous members have gone on to paint professionally.

The group meets on Mondays from 7 to 9pm at Up Holland Meeting Rooms (next to the library). For more information contact Lily on 07935 351 414 or Val on 01695 729983.

House fire

FIREFIGHTERS from Skelmersdale attended a suspected arson at a mid-terraced house in Yewdale on Saturday, February 18.

Crews arrived at the scene at 6.47am and found a fire involving a gas main. As a result a neighbouring house was evacuated.

National Grid attended to isolate the gas.

There were no injuries reported.

College submits plan for new Construction Academy building

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancashire College has submitted a planning application to build a new home for its Construction Academy at the Skelmersdale campus.

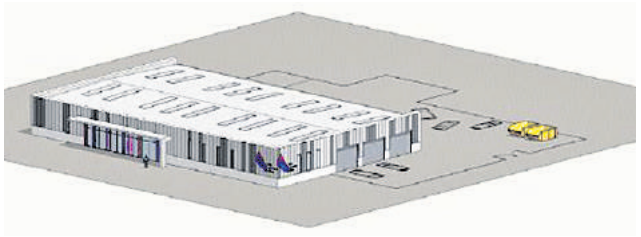
The proposed new building would be a 'stand-alone' unit as construction and engineering work is not compatible with the existing building in terms of noise, dust and vibration.

It would be single-storey (5m to parapet) and adjacent to the main campus.

The new building would incorporate: a plumbing, plastering, brick, electrical, engineering and motorv vehicle workshops, along with toilets and changing facilities and lobby.

Construction and engineering training is already provided by the college at its Construction Academy with courses including bricklaying, plastering, joinery, plumbing, electrical and engineering.

However, it is currently located at the Gillibrands Industrial Estate, which is 10 minutes' drive away from the college's main campus. The academy is also now larger than required and is leased annually at a significant cost to the college.



A computerised image of what the proposed new Construction Academy will look like

The college is proposing to terminate the lease to build the construction and engineering facility within the Skelmersdale Campus. The identified site would be found along College Way, which allows access to the main car park by the north end of the site.

It is hoped that the building can be completed and handed over by September 2017.

In a design and access statement for the application, Ellis Williams Architects (EWA) write: "On the basis of the established college/educational use on the site, it seems sensible to assume that planning policy would support further similar development on the site."

EWA have been with the college bosses to look at similar installations at Riverside College in Widnes and the college's own Construction Academy at the Gillibrands Industrial Estate.

The college has carried out a detailed curriculum analysis, which looks at pupil numbers, number of rooms required and when they will be used.

Veterans group receive good response to appeal for support

OFFICIALS of the recently-formed Skelmersdale Veterans Association have reported a good response to their appeal for support in the town.

But as well as thanking all the people who have offered to help so far, they would still welcome more support.

Alan Lewis from the association said: "We would like to say a big thank-you to Hotter Shoes of Skelmersdale and to the Concourse Shopping Centre for letting us raise funds for our show on July 22 and 23. We collected £262 at the centre over the weekend.

"We have also had support from Asda, and Walker's crisps and we'd like to thank Champion newspapers and Tommy Morris from the Royal Navy Association."

High-profile events

The association meets on the second Sunday of every month at 2pm at the Hare and Hounds pub in Ormskirk Road. Next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 12 and is open to both male and female members of all ranks.

The group will be holding a number of high-profile events including a concert on the weekend of the anniversary of The Battle of The Somme on June 30.

Alan added: "The key theme for the organisation is the importance of involving young people in helping with the design and implementation of the activities.

"The concert will be for the whole community with youths and adults alike all celebrating as one. If you are able to support the association your contribution will not go unrecognised."

A dinner for veterans and their families will be held at Evermoor Hub on July 1.

The association will also be organising an annual Armed Forces Day event on July 22 and 23 for the local community along with a Remembrance Parade, climbing wall, pipe band, military vehicles and a funfair.

The group also plan to engage with young people from local schools, colleges and cadet forces doing events around Remembrance.

And they plan a visit to The National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire.

To get involved in the concert contact Alan Moore on SVA.sec@outlook.com or alan.say@hotmail.co.uk.

For more information about the association and the activities being planned ring Alan Lewis on 07939 660 048.

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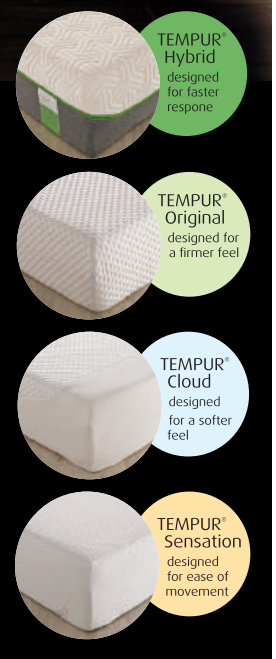
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Council backs call to lobby for local involvement in Brexit negotiations

WEST Lancashire Borough Council has agreed to back plans to lobby for local and regional involvement in Brexit negotiations.

The proposal, which went to the full council meeting on Wednesday, February 22, is to work with other local authorities to "pursue any lobbying or legislative means, so as to ensure that our local and combined authorities acquire and use to best effect a substantive place in the negotiations between the United Kingdom and the European Union following the 'triggering' of Article 50."

Councillor Frank McKenna, who put forward the motion, said: "Brexit is the biggest economic event of our lifetime, and we can't just stand by and see the post-Article 50 negotiation period be frittered by a government which arguably now lacks both the know-how and the credibility to come up with any kind of workable deal, and is thus letting us in for the hardest of hard Brexits not because it may be best for the country, but because it has no idea how to do anything else.

Councillor Frank McKenna

"At local and regional level, we get the main threats and opportunities surrounding Brexit, and are much more capable of negotiating regional level deals than a government tied to Westminster's political priorities.

"The government won't consider things like how we can best help a port city and its surrounding area meet the demands of possible exit from the customs union, for example, but we will.

"The EU does have a long history of dealing with regions, as well as nation states, not least via the large European funding programmes for Merseyside, and if we are to properly meet the challenges of Brexit, including the funding gaps that may emerge, we need to be at the table. This motion to council is the first stage of that campaign to take local control of our destiny.

"If Nissan can apparently get promises from government overnight about how its position will be secure whatever happens, then it's only right and proper that democratically-elected councils seek to secure a voice for the people they serve."

Staff and residents at Cardinal Heenan House with family members taking part in their Dignity Action Day event

Care home marks Dignity Action Day

STAFF, residents and family members at a care home in Up Holland took part in the national celebrations of dignity in care.

A range of activities to mark Dignity Action Day 2017 were organised at Cardinal Heenan House, in School Lane, Roby Mill.

The event was part of a month-long campaign held annually which gives health and social care workers and members of the public across the country the opportunity to uphold people's rights to dignity in care.

Led by dignity champion at the home, Joanne Tocker, activities at Cardinal Heenan House included the creation of a Digni-Tree, where people could add leaves on the branches on which they had written their thoughts on what dignity means to them.

The day also featured role-play situations looking at the subject of dignity in care with families able to interject and offer their opinions.

Joanne Tocker said: "Dignity Action Day is an annual opportunity for our care workers and relatives to uphold people's rights to dignity. We hope to have provided a truly enjoyable day for everyone who uses our services at Cardinal Heenan House to show them we care."

Activities co-ordinator at Cardinal Heenan House, Christine Edge, added: "The event highlighted how important dignity is and showed the importance of treating residents with dignity and respect. It also gave the families of residents the chance to tell us what they expect from us."

Bank staff's 'grand' charity effort

BIG-hearted staff at The Co-operative Bank's Delf House facility in Skelmersdale took part in the company's annual 'festive fundraiser'.

Nationally, the event raised £50,000 by pitching teams against each other to raise money for a variety of good causes, with the winning team earning additional donations from the bank.

The team from Skelmersdale raised £600 for Ormskirk Neonatal Unit with cakes sales and dress-down days, while a further £400 from the bank brought the total up to £1,000.

They also supported the Skelmersdale Food Bank at the Ecumenical Centre by collecting 12 trays of food for those in need in the local area.

Panto hits the target with pupils

PUPILS at St James' Catholic Primary School in Skelmersdale enjoyed a 'trip' to the panto right on their own doorstep when they were entertained by M&M Productions' performance of *Robin Hood*.

The company have previously performed other pantomimes at the school in Ashurst Road, including *Sleeping Beauty* and *Pinocchio*.

And this year's performance was another hit with all the pupils from nursery to Year 6.

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Mighty Meat Chicken, Ham, Pepperoni, Salami, Sliced meats **Big Mighty Amigo Pizza** Double Pepperoni, Salami, Sausage, Chicken **Amigos Pizza** Meatballs, Sausage, Onion, Green Peppers, Salami **Supreme Pizza** Mushrooms, Ham, Red Onion, Pepperoni, Peppers & Salami	£6.40	£7.40	£9.30	£10.30	£11.30
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Half Chicken with Rice	£6.50

EXTRAS

	Reg	Lge
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Cheese and Chips	£2.10	£2.90
Onion Rings	£1.80	£2.20
Naan Bread, Chips and Extra Cheese		£3.00
Chicken, Chips and Cheese		£3.00
Chips, Cheese and Beans		£3.00
Dipping Chicken and Chips		£3.50
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Council invites local community to join clean-up campaign

WEST Lancs Council is inviting residents to take part in a national clean-up campaign.

Following the success of the 'Clean for the Queen' Campaign in 2016, which saw more than 250,000 people nationwide take part in litter-picking events, the Keep Britain Tidy Group have launched the Great British Spring Clean campaign.

This aims to inspire 500,000 people to participate in community clean-ups, many of which will take place over the weekend of Friday to Sunday, March 3-5.

The council is organising its own events as well as encouraging and supporting parish councils and residents across the borough to organise events in their area.

Volunteers are more than welcome to join in with council clean-up events organised by the Parks and Countryside Ranger Service but are asked to wear suitable clothing for the weather and ground conditions.

The council-run activities are as follows:

- Saturday, March 4, Coronation Park, Ormskirk, meet at the bowling pavilion at 1pm.
- Sunday, March 5, Chequer Lane Lake, Up Holland, meet at the car park at 10am.
- Wedesday, March 8, Tawd Valley Park, Skelmersdale, meet at the turning circle on Summer Street at 10am.
- Friday, March 10, Station Approach, Ormskirk, meet at the car park at 1pm.

A West Lancs Council clean-up event will be staged at Tawd Valley Park in Skelmersdale

Community groups and local residents who are organising a clean-up of their local area and require resources such as bin bags and litter-pickers to undertake a clean-up can contact Michelle Furlong, the council's Street Scene operations manager, on 577177 extension 5449 or by email michelle.furlong@westlancs.gov.uk.

Borough council environmental enforcement officers will also be out supporting community events.

Councillor Ian Moran, leader of West Lancs Council, said: "A key priority in the council plan is to be ambitious for our environment and its cleanliness.

"Working together can make a real contribution in tackling litter issues and improving the quality of the environment. These activities will demonstrate there are many who care passionately about this issue and are prepared to support their community."

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Council responds to residents' claims over sheltered housing unit's parking dilemma

A SPOKESPERSON for West Lancs Council says the authority is seeking a solution to residents' claims of insufficient parking at a town-centre sheltered housing complex.

The Queens Court retirement development in Aughton Street, Ormskirk comprises 41 flats and bunglows, but with only two designated parking spaces, residents of the council-managed complex say they are forced to use the on-street parking.

Following a spate of parking tickets issued to residents, chair of the Queens Court Residents' Association, Frank Jones, enlisted the help of Knowsley ward councillors Nikki Hennessy and Adam Yates to flag up the issue.

The spokesperson for the borough council said: "The highways around Queens Court are all adopted by Lancashire County Council which has a variety of on-street parking restrictions in place. WLBC sympathises with tenants at the sheltered scheme but there is very limited parking on the site and lack of land around the site means that there is no scope for extending or improving the current parking facility.

"Discussions have taken place with Lancashire County Council about the potential to reduce on-street parking restrictions or to bring in a residents parking scheme at both the front and rear of the sheltered scheme to help to alleviate tenants' issues. However, the county council have been unable to progress these options to date."

Lottery funding for community projects

FOUR community projects in West Lancashire have been awarded grants as part of the Big Lottery Fund's Awards for All programme.

The scheme offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 for community activities that aim to improve life for local people and neighbourhoods.

Burscough Parish Council was awarded £9,935 to create a forum, 'Changing the Status Quo Forever', to help young people to get involved in decision-making about future leisure provision in the local community.

Aim of the project is to involve young people in improving facilities whilst reducing drug and alcohol use, vandalism and anti-social behaviour.

Rufford Cricket Club's 'Ruff and Ready for Action' project has been given £9,800 to buy cricketing and other equipment to allow them to provide a wider range of healthy activities for the community.

The Acorns School in Ruff Lane, Ormskirk has been awarded £10,000 for its 'My Space', scheme to create a calm room for schoolchildren with severe behavioural issues, which could help their academic progress and behaviour by providing a safe space for them to relax in.

And Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School has been given £9,460 for its ' Tarleton Community Circle' project to create an outdoor area that provides quiet space for reflection or social interaction. This will include a stone seating circle with a centrepiece sculpture, replacing an old planting area between the school building and church next door.

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College quartet scoop prizes at drama awards

PERFORMING arts students at West Lancashire College are celebrating after winning four prizes at the North West District's National Operatic and Dramatic Association Awards held at Southport Theatre & Convention Centre.

During the evening the amateur theatre nominees also received medals, badges and certificates in appreciation of and to commemorate their years of service to amateur theatre.

West Lancashire College students were nominated for 15 awards and took home four, including 'Best Overall Youth Production' for their *Much Ado about Nothing*.

Other individual winners for West Lancashire College on the night were Chloe Taylor for best female lead in a musical; Niamh Donnelly, best female lead in a play; and Alexander Tighe, best male in a play.

The four will now go forward to the Regional Awards at The Mercure Manchester Piccadilly Hotel on Saturday, April 29.

Course tutor, Deb Fletcher, said: "It was truly a wonderful evening for West Lancashire College performing arts department. We have extremely talented and committed students and are super proud of their success at the awards and the recognition they have received.

"We are very excited about going forward to the Regional Awards in Manchester in April and hoping to have even more success."

The department's next production is Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, showing in The Hope Theatre, West Lancashire College on Thursday and Friday, March 23 and 24 from 7pm. To book call 01695 52317 or email commercial@westlancs.ac.uk.

West Lancashire College students at the awards event

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

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What is State Pension top up and is it right for you?

With applications for the Government's State Pension top up scheme closing on 5 April 2017, it's worth considering if it could be right for you.

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THINGS TO CONSIDER

The scheme isn't right for everyone, and there are alternative ways to boost retirement income. State Pension top up is taxable as income, and we recommend seeking independent advice before taking up the scheme.

HOW TO APPLY

Just apply online at gov.uk/statepensiontopup and we'll post you everything you need.

Remember that the deadline for online applications is midnight 5 April 2017

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County Councillor Nikki Hennessy presents the BFI award at First Steps Children's Centre

Children's centres recognised for high standards of care

CHILDREN'S centres in Lancashire have been recognised with a prestigious award for the high standard of care they provide.

The centres, run by Lancashire County Council, and the health visiting service provided by Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, have each been awarded the Baby Friendly accreditation.

Local peer support teams, where volunteer mothers are trained to support others with breastfeeding, were also recognised with this award.

County Councillor Nikki Hennessy presented the BFI award to staff at First Steps Children's Centre in Eavesdale, Skelmersdale.

The Baby Friendly Initiative, run by Unicef and the World Health Organisation, is a global programme which helps health services to improve the infant feeding support for mothers and babies.

In the UK, the initiative works with public services to protect, promote, and support breastfeeding and to strengthen mother-baby and family relationships.

The accolade recognises the high level of support in Lancashire and the positive comments from mothers who use the facilities, with 94% of them being happy with the service.

County Councillor Azhar Ali, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "It's great that our children's centres have been recognised with the prestigious Unicef Baby Friendly Award. "We work very closely with the local NHS care trusts, health visitors and local breastfeeding support services who do a superb job supporting mothers in the community. Congratulations to everyone involved for achieving this award."

Katie Wharton, infant feeding co-ordinator for Lancashire Care, added: "The Baby Friendly accreditation is great news for babies being born in Lancashire.

"The Lancashire Care Infant Feeding Team will continue to support the workforce to maintain the high standards required to ensure families receive the support and information required for their long-term wellbeing."

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Don't say 'yes' to phone scammers

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are being warned to beware of a telephone scam when simply saying 'yes' can result in you falling victim to a con.

The scam works by the fraudster calling up homes and simply asking: 'Can you hear me?' If the unsuspecting householder replies 'yes' the scammer records this which is then edited to make it sound like they have authorised a major purchase.

This effectively renders the call a verbal contract, called a voice signature, which can be used legitimately by companies to show that you've agreed to a change or payment, usually an upgrade, in some sort of plan.

In one variation of the scam documented in the USA, the criminals may pretend to be from a holiday or home security company and will later bill you for products or services you never asked for. If you try to deny the charges, the scammers will play back your verbal 'confirmation' and threaten you with legal action.

In another variation, scammers may use the recording to authorise charges on a stolen credit card or with a utility company by tricking an automated system.

The con artists may have already stolen other personal information through a data breach that would allow them to pass the security checks.

County backs campaign to improve online skills

LANCASHIRE County Council is supporting the national Be Online campaign to help people get to grips with the Internet.

Running from Monday (February 27) to Sunday, March 12, it will focus on helping people to get the most out of being online.

Libraries across the county will be supporting people to gain or to improve their online skills and discover how the Internet can make their lives a little easier.

County Councillor Marcus Johnstone, Lancashire's cabinet member for environment, planning and cultural services, said: "More local people than ever now enjoy the benefits of using the Internet, yet there are still many adults in Lancashire who have never been online, or not used the Internet very much at all.

"The Be Online campaign offers a fantastic opportunity for people to get familiar with modern technology and start enjoying all the advantages of life online.

"Digital skills are increasingly important in every aspect of our lives, from job opportunities, education and entertainment, to using services and shopping.

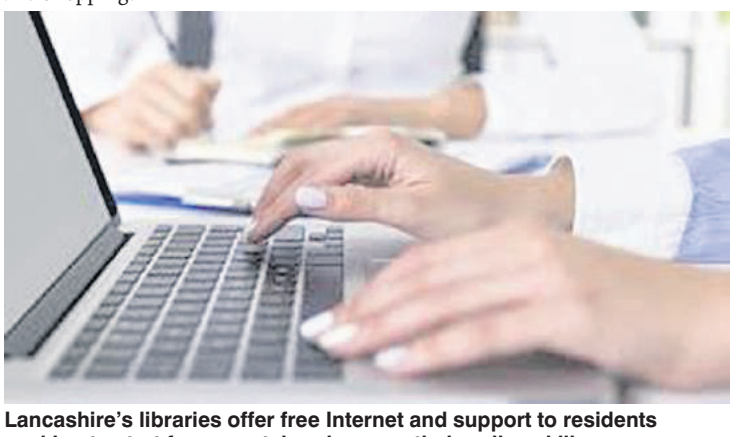
"It doesn't matter whether you'll be getting online for the first time or looking to learn more. I would really encourage anyone to go along to a library and start getting online, and maybe do more with your skills. As more and more services go online it's really important for people to have the basic skills that are needed to access the Internet.

"Although it can feel pretty scary getting started, we're here to help and there's lots of support available."

Be Online is organised by the Good Things Foundation which runs two national campaigns each year to focus attention on those without digital skills and to promote digital inclusion.

All Lancashire libraries are members of the Online Centres Network offering free Internet and providing support to people wanting to gain online skill.

People can just turn up at their local library to take part, no booking is needed. Anyone who lives in the UK can join a Lancashire library, either online or by visiting in person. Membership is free and there are no age restrictions. For more information, call 0300 123 6703.



Lancashire's libraries offer free Internet and support to residents seeking to start from scratch or improve their online skills

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Politicians should stop trying to micro-control our lives

SOCIALISTS love to micro-control the lives of the masses, as their attempts to control those in sheltered accommodation have revealed.

Everyone is to be trained to press a button once a day or else.

Not sure what the 'or else' is but you can be assured it's not to the benefit of those being controlled.

Instead of the weekly visit by wardens, you do a daily button press instead. Which is even more controlling, you have to press that button every single day of your life at the same time.

What next? Meals at the same time every day? TV restrictions?

Maybe we should look to 1984, which socialists are too stupid to understand was written as a warning not an instruction manual.

Some may consider this to be more humane than the mass killings of the disabled by the Tories, via the DWP and Atos. They were even lambasted by the UN for the way they kill disabled people, and of course they were too arrogant to think they were at fault.

Maybe the Tories consider killing the disabled as some form of urban fox hunt, a blood sport?

I've seen the UN report, because I was one of those who supplied evidence for it and encouraged many others to do the same.

It would seem that our freedoms are being eroded in many ways, but to micro-control our lives is truly depraved and is the action of a control freak. They usually say it's for our benefit, but how often have we heard that spouted only to find it was yet another lie?

If this missive sounds too political, maybe that's because politics has invaded our lives to a large, unwanted and unneeded degree.

Back off and stop trying to control us, we're not trained monkeys.

Ken Walters, Ormskirk

Students are not to blame for the closure of town's family shops

IN reply to a previous letter ('Council have let university take control of our town' - February 15), as a student, I am shocked by the number of shops in Ormskirk that have closed down.

Students have not attempted to rid the town of family shops and are more likely to want more well-known high street shops.

Many shops are closed early almost every day, therefore students are less likely to go to lesser-known shops. I mainly go to charity shops, due to the fact many shops have closed down.

Also, there is enough student accommodation to my knowledge and properties are only being converted to keep them going.

I agree the name Ormskirk should not be changed, due to the market and heritage, despite the university being there since 1931.

I would personally like to build up the town to the best of its ability to support the families and students alike.

B. Trober, by email

High streets' demise is a national problem

I JUST want to correct an opinion stated in a letter (Champion, February 15) about the university taking over the town.

The idea that the closure of family shops is caused by students is nonsense.

The reason shops can't maintain a high street presence is due to increasing rates and the fact that most people spend money via Internet channels.

This is a national (and probably global) problem. High streets are dying.

I'm to blame. I hardly ever buy anything from shops. Why would I when I can get them at 30% less online?

There is a reason all the shops are hairdressers, charity shops, over-priced coffee shops and bookies. None of which have anything to do with students.

I get that things change and that's something people need to learn to live with. Throwing accusations which are nonsense is not going to help any protest that you have.

Online shopper, by email

PICTURE of the week

Come on you Reds! ... with our native red squirrel still under threat from their larger grey cousins, local and national wildlife groups are calling for an army of volunteers to help monitor and report sightings to enable conservationists to track changes in the red and grey squirrel populations. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Delay in tackling town-centre congestion invites criticism

IN response to County Councillor Nikki Hennessy's letter (Champion, February 15), I must first correct her on a question of fact in that I was not the leader of West Lancashire Borough Council in January 2014.

However, I was on the cabinet when it considered a response to LCC as part of the consultation on the West Lancashire Highways & Transport Masterplan and supported the agreed response which did include comment on a number of specific issues.

I continue to be supportive of the Masterplan but I am very critical of the delay by the Labour administration in producing a movement strategy to address the congestion in Ormskirk town centre. It was promised by October 2016 but work on it only started in November and it is not now expected until late summer this year.

Labour regained control of the county back in 2013 and have done absolutely nothing to address congestion. I acknowledge they have produced a wish list known as the Masterplan, removed the protection for the route of a possible bypass and imposed an unenforceable weight restriction on Derby Street Bridge.

Rather than trying and failing to score political points, Cllr. Hennessy's time would be much better spent looking after the interests of Ormskirk by writing to her colleague in charge of LCC highways and urging him to what he promised.

**Councillor David Westley,
West Lancashire East Division,
Lancashire County Council**

A case of mistaken identity

RETURNING from an overseas holiday it was brought to my attention that there had been a letter written to the Champion from a Mrs Peterson on January 18.

It was assumed, wrongly, that it was me. I live in Aughton and almost directly opposite the Parrs Lane site, so understandably it was a reasonable assumption.

As I have completely opposing views – along with a fair number of my friends and neighbours I was naturally concerned and annoyed.

I have two points to make.

First, one must ask how 'Mrs Peterson' and her friends and neighbours missed or were prevented from giving their views considering all the campaigning and meetings that went on over a long period. They were at liberty to express their views at any time and did not have to wait to be asked!

Secondly, as I have now fallen foul of this letter, having the same surname, I ask myself why do some people feel the need to express their views in newspapers but feel the need to hide their identity, or simply obfuscate?

If they feel that what they are saying is controversial and would like to remain anonymous why not withhold their name entirely?

To simply sign a letter Mr or Mrs X can, I have found to my cost and embarrassment, cast aspersions on innocent people.

Mrs A. M. Peterson, Aughton

Local shops are an endangered species

ON the subject of town centre shops closing, one problem specific to Ormskirk is the closeness of the Hattersley's retail site and its recent change from non-food to fresh food shops.

When it was turned into a retail park we were promised that there would be no food outlets. It is a pity that we cannot hold them to that promise.

Lately it has been reported in the local press that one hedge fund has invested about £6 million on the site so we can expect even more expansion. Home and Bargains and Iceland obviously find the site very attractive.

To add further problems for our local shops, business rates coming in April will hit town-centre shops harder than retail parks and online businesses. Even our vibrant cafe culture is therefore under threat.

Our 'local' shops are an endangered species!

Local resident, name and address supplied

Give us a retail park!

NOW the plan for a high street in Skelmersdale seems to have been put on the backburner, could I suggest we have a retail business park instead?

Something similar to Robin Park in Wigan, somewhere to buy white goods, furniture, clothes, DIY etc., perhaps a Wacky Warehouse for the little ones and a skateboard park for the teens.

I think this would cater for those both living in and around Skelmersdale better than a high street.

A.D., Skelmersdale, by email

Why can't we afford a library in Burscough any more?

WHEN I came to Burscough 50 years ago, we had a small, self-contained community and a well-used library.

Since than thousands of new houses and a thriving industrial estate have been built with more on the way.

All these generate extra council tax, so why is it we can't afford to continue to operate a library? Where is the money going?

Doug Elliot, Burscough

Rail staff to strike over driver-only trains plan

Report by **Henry James**

RAIL Union RMT has confirmed that Merseyrail and Arriva Rail North staff will go on strike on Monday, March 13 after members voted overwhelmingly for action over the company's plans to introduce driver-only operated trains.

Merseyrail members are being told not to book on for any shifts between 12.01am and 11.59pm on Monday, March 13.

The RMT said 81.8% of Merseyrail members voted for strike action with 93.5% backing action short of a strike.

Arriva Rail North members voted by 83.6% for strike action and by 93.5% for action short of a strike.

In addition, Merseyrail members will not work any rest days from 12.01am on Tuesday, March 7 indefinitely.

RMT general secretary, Mick Cash, said: "This ballot result sends out the clearest possible message to Merseyrail, Merseytravel and politicians across the area that RMT is prepared to stand up and fight for public safety and the guard guarantee. The company now has the best part of two weeks to sit down with us, address the core issues at the heart of this dispute and negotiate a settlement before the action commences.

"The union's position on Driver Only Operation (DOO) is perfectly clear. We will not agree to any introduction of DOO and will fight to retain the safety critical role of the guard and to keep a guard on the train.

"RMT asked Merseyrail to give the union assurances that any new trains will have a second, safety-critical crew member on board and that the guard will be retained on all services. We set out clear deadlines giving the company ample time to give those assurances but the company have flatly refused to consider a guarantee of a second, safety-critical person on the new trains.

One of the new driver-operated only trains which Merseyrail plan to introduce

"The blame for the industrial action, and the disruption it will cause, lies solely at the door of Merseyrail and those who are happy to put private profits before public safety.

"Merseyrail are also completely ignoring the clear wishes of their own passengers, who overwhelmingly oppose the idea of Driver Only Operated trains on their network. That pig-headed attitude has forced the union's hand and the idea that we would compromise on the fundamental issue of rail safety is absurd. The union remains available for meaningful talks and we would expect Merseyrail to take up that offer as a matter of urgency."

A spokeswoman for Merseyrail commented: "Following the announcement that RMT guard members have voted in favour of strike action, Merseyrail has made clear that we will work hard to provide the highest level of service possible under the challenging conditions of future strikes.

"We have also pledged to do everything we can to bring the dispute to a satisfactory and swift conclusion and are committed to continuing dialogue with the RMT."

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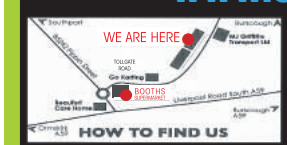

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University to host talk by dementia charity researcher

SOME of the greatest challenges faced by those caring for people with dementia will be the subject of a talk to be held at Edge Hill University.

Dr Arwen Wilcock, a research translation manager for the Alzheimer's Society charity, will give the talk, entitled 'Making it real: improving evidence-based practice' at the university's Tech Hub Lecture Theatre on Thursday, March 2, starting at 4pm.

She will discuss the progress that the charity has made to support translation of research evidence into the real world setting.

Dr Wilcock's responsibilities include providing strategic oversight of the charity's implementation of their research grant programme, establishing and implementing a research translation pathway and managing a portfolio of projects that focus on this.

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Brothers Michael (left) and Ryan Molloy with sensei Andy Sherryre

Brothers win GB karate call-up at the double

KARATE kids Ryan and Michael Molloy have notched a notable family double by both being named in the Great Britain squad.

The brothers, both pupils at St Bede's High School in Ormskirk, have trained three times a week in shotokan karate at Kirkby Sports Centre under the guidance of sensei (teacher) George Morris, since they were just five years old.

Fifteen-year-old Ryan obtained his 1st Dan black belt when he was 13 and has been a member of the GB squad for two years. Now he has been joined by Michael who has gained the achievements at the same age.

Having been named British champion twice, Ryan has won more than 30 gold medals in competitions across the UK and is about to take his 2nd Dan black belt.

And Michael has also won 12 gold medals, as well as last year's Welsh championships.

Proud dad, Patrick, said: "While Ryan has been in the international team for two years, this is the first time that both boys have made the GB karate team.

"This was a massive achievement for them to be awarded such a high-level honour together and winning their place in the squad.

"They are both fantastic ambassadors for their school and for Ormskirk and have put in years of commitment."

ARCH

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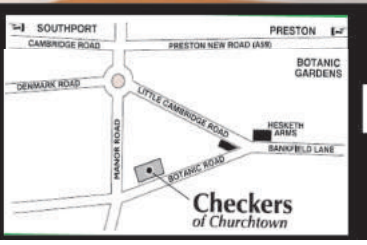

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New recruits sign up to Dementia Friends campaign

A GROUP of 16 West Lancashire residents are among the latest recruits to become Dementia Friends as part of the campaign to tackle the stigma and lack of understanding around the condition.

The group attended a free, one-hour information session at the CLM (Cottage Lane Mission) Church in Ormskirk run by local Dementia Friends Champion, Amanda Boult.

The Alzheimer's Society's programme is the biggest-ever initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia. It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, talks and acts about the condition.

Dementia Friends Champions are volunteers who talk to people about being a Dementia Friend in their communities.

Amanda said: "I was so pleased to see people showing their support for people with dementia, by coming along to the session and becoming Dementia Friends.

"We need to create more communities and businesses that are dementia-friendly so that people affected by dementia feel understood and included.

"As part of the West Lancashire Dementia Action Alliance, CLM Church in Ormskirk was the perfect place to start and is working towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Church."

The new Dementia Friends who took part in the session at the CLM Church in Ormskirk

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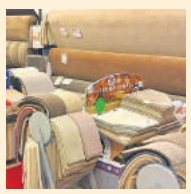

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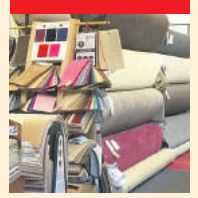

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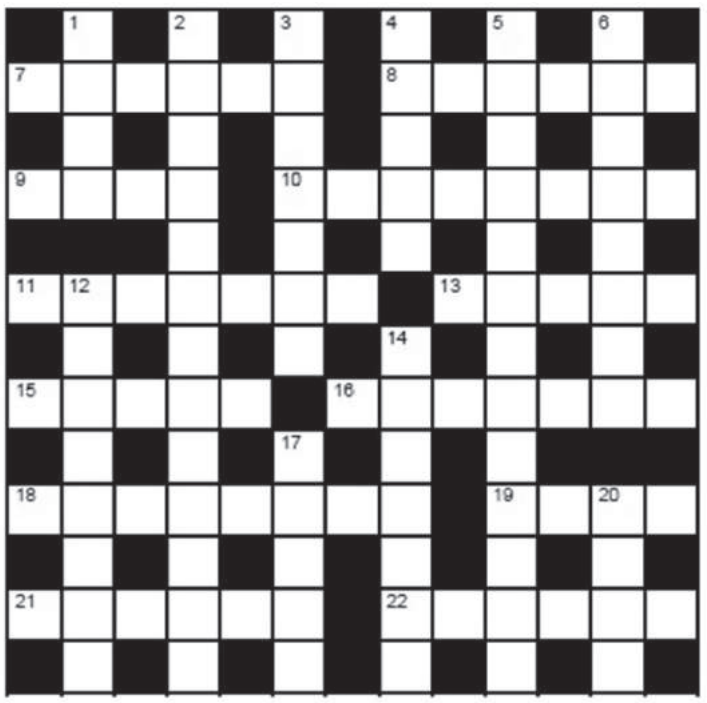

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Concentration. 8 De Gaulle. 9 Iota. 10 Redress. 12 Embed. 14 Opine. 16 Recount. 19 Wand. 20 Educated. 22 Biotechnology.

Down: 1 Mole. 2 Eclair. 3 Enclose. 4 Fried. 5 Atrium. 6 Northern. 11 Emphasis. 13 Genuine. 15 Nudity. 17 Oracle. 18 Mercy. 21 Edgy.

ACROSS

7. Exclamation used to express joy or approval (6)
8. Steers clear of (6)
9. Flesh of a cow, bull, or ox used as food (4)
10. Tentative (8)
11. Widely-used pain relief in tablet form (7)
13. Heavy iron block with flat top and concave sides on which metal can be hammered and shaped (5)
15. Female horse under 5 years old (5)
16. Informal term for sleep (4-3)
18. Curved strip or cover over a wheel of a vehicle (8)
19. Noisy (4)
21. Large marine reptile with bony or leathery shell and flippers (6)
22. Not level or smooth (6)

DOWN

1. The trunk of a tree (4)
2. Road-control system usually using red, amber and green-coloured signals (7, 6)
3. Infectious bacterial fever causing an eruption of red spots on the chest and abdomen (7)
4. Minister's house, specially in Scottish Presbyterian Church (5)
5. Clairvoyant (7,6)
6. Recognise (8)
12. Spur, inducement (8)
14. Rare, silvery-white metallic element, atomic number 45 (7)
17. Destined to happen (5)
20. Person who exploits others (4)

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Councils sign up to new support plan for young homeless

NEW arrangements to support young homeless people in Lancashire have been launched.

A joint protocol, agreed by Lancashire County Council and the 12 district councils, outlines the commitments and responsibilities expected of all professionals working with young people.

The new arrangements recognise that it isn't always possible for young people to live with their families. In these situations, a key aim is to ensure that all 16 and 17 year-olds who need accommodation are dealt with swiftly and consistently across the county. To support this all professionals must be up-to-date with the latest legislation and best placed to ensure that individuals receive the best information and support.

The protocol will ensure that:

• Early help and support is provided to help young people to stay with, or be safely reunited with, their families.

• Young people who are homeless, or are at risk of becoming homeless, are properly safeguarded.

• Young people receive the right help at the right time.

• A practical system is established to find young people appropriate safe and secure accommodation.

> "We want to make sure that all young people who find themselves in this situation get accurate advice as quickly as possible, no matter where they live, or who they go to for help."

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson

• Young people have clear and consistent routes to get housing and support.

County Councillor Matthew Tomlinson, Lancashire's cabinet member for children, young people and schools, said: "We all know that young people are usually best placed living with their families, sadly though, sometimes this just isn't possible for many different reasons.

"We want to make sure that all young people who find themselves in this situation get accurate advice as quickly as possible, no matter where they live, or who they go to for help.

"This isn't just about ensuring that young people in this situation have a roof over their head. We will always work hard to make sure that they have the most appropriate accommodation for their circumstances.

"All the organisations involved have committed to ensuring that a young person's needs should be taken into account, including education, financial support and maintaining contact with family and friends, if this is what the young person wants. Crucially, we will ensure that they have someone they can trust to help them understand the system. They are not on their own."

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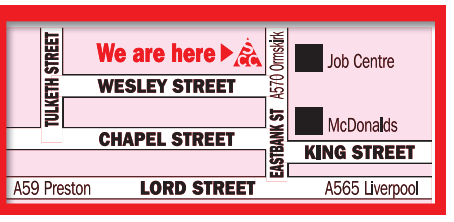

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Police pledge to crack down on drivers using mobiles

POLICE officers at Lancashire Constabulary will be enforcing new legislation which comes into effect today (Wednesday, March 1) that means motorists who are caught using a mobile while driving will receive six points on their licence and a £200 fine, doubling the previous punishment.

In support of the tougher national stance, the constabulary will no longer offer education courses to drivers caught using their phone as an alternative to a fine and points. Those caught will automatically be issued with a penalty notice or be reported to court, depending on the circumstances of the offence.

For new drivers (within two years of passing their test) this could mean automatically losing their licence and having to re-apply for a provisional and re-take their driving test.

It is hoped that the tougher penalties will act as a deterrent and encourage people to think before they pick up a phone while driving.

Alongside this, a number of tactics will be used during a week of action (March 1-7) to coincide with the legislative change.

Safety camera vans will be deployed to areas where complaints have been received, such as outside schools and on major trunk roads, and the camera technicians will be able to capture evidence of offences.

Marked and unmarked police vehicles will also be used to identify possible offenders, checkpoints with observation areas on the approach will be implemented across the county and officers will be responding to complaints about persistent offenders.

Chief Inspector Damian Kitchen said: "Inattention and distraction are as big an issue to road safety as speed, seatbelt use and drink or drug driving.

"The consequences of even a moment's distraction can be devastating and our message is 'it simply is not worth taking that call or sending that text'. Killing or seriously injuring someone just because you picked up your mobile phone will live with you forever, and destroy families. In addition, you could go to prison, lose your job and your licence.

Police in Lancashire are set to crack down on drivers using their phones at the wheel

"Sadly, too many motorists on our roads are taking the risk of using their mobile phone when driving. Whether it's looking at a text or a new social media post, streaming a video behind the wheel, checking emails or making a phone call, all of these activities are dangerous. I get lots of correspondence from the public, councillors and MPs asking us to do more to tackle this issue. It really is becoming as socially unacceptable as drink driving and rightly so.

"We want all road users to be aware of the new legislation, although I suspect there will be some who view this as a money making scheme, but I want to refute that straight away. Police forces receive no revenue from the fines issued, which all go to the treasury. This change in legislation and renewed approach is about reducing casualties. Success for me will be that we don't issue any fines again because people simply stop doing it."

Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, said: "This new legislation is more than welcome here in Lancashire and I hope that it will encourage drivers to stop and think before they use their mobile phone to check a message, answer a call or even scroll through their social media profiles when they are driving."

There's a new 'app' on the block

We're all app mad on our smartphones nowadays, aren't we?

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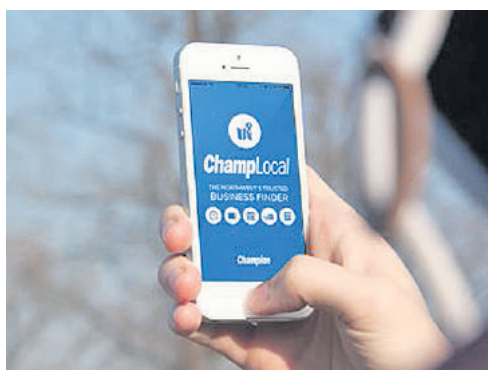

Every listing comes with names, addresses and phone numbers and many include direct links to websites, Google Maps, Facebook and Twitter pages as well as email addresses and mobile numbers.

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Warrior Jonny crowned 'Last Man Standing' on hit TV show

Ormskirk gym member outperforms rivals on 'world's toughest obstacle course' to claim Ninja crown

by **Danielle Thompson**

A PERSONAL trainer who hones his physique at a gym in Ormskirk has been crowned the 'Last Man Standing' on the hit ITV show, Ninja Warrior UK.

Former gymnast Jonny Urszuly, 30, who trains at Unite Health and Fitness, Moorgate, became only the second man in the history of the contest to reach the third stage of the final of the show, described as the 'world's toughest obstacle course.'

The first and second stages of the timed challenge involved using hand-eye co-ordination and upper body strength to get over a pool of water by jumping and swinging between hanging hoops.

Jonny also had to lift up glass walls and climb across another wall using batons placed in holes

He completed the first two stages and came within inches of completing the third stage, which included climbing across five boards by his fingertips and swinging in between them, but still managed to get further than his rival competitors.

Following his victory, the inspirational dad-of-three from Maghull joined pupils at Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School on Tuesday, February 21 to put the sporty young pupils through their Ninja Warrior paces.

Jonny in Ninja Warrior UK

The actor and stunt man, originally from Budapest in Hungary, worked out a special obstacle course with teacher Wendy Jagger, who also appeared on the show, which challenged children from different year groups to push themselves that little bit further than they are used to.

Jonny plans to defending his title by taking on the challenge again next year and become the first person to complete the entire course.

LEFT: Nijna Warrior UK's 'Last Man Standing', puts youngsters at Tarleton Holy Trinity Church of England Primary through their paces during a fun session at the school in Church Road.

Illustrated talk on life of 'heroine of Lathom House'

CHAIRMAN of Lathom Park Trust, Paul Kenyon, will give a talk on 'Charlotte, Countess of Derby' at the Briars Hall Hotel in Lathom following the trust's annual general meeting on Tuesday, March 14.

Paul Kenyon said: "This fully-illustrated talk looks at the life of this famous heroine, who so gallantly defended Lathom House, from the Parliamentarians during the Civil War."

The talk starts at 8.15pm and admission for non-members is £3.

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Members of Halsall Against Fracking and Formby Against Fracking with campaigners from across the North West at last weekend's rally

Local anti-fracking groups join 1,000-strong protest

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

MEMBERS of anti-fracking groups from West Lancashire and Sefton joined more than 1,000 campaigners from across the North West at a 'Don't Frack Lancs' protest in Preston.

Campaigners from Frack Free Burscough, Halsall Against Fracking, Frack Free Halsall, Frack Free Formby and Frack Free Southport all took part in the rally to show solidarity with other Lancashire groups at the Preston New Road entrance to Quadrilla's shale drilling site on Saturday, February 25.

Matthew Barrow from Frack Free Burscough said: "People of all ages were there with their families, pets, banners and flags galore and it was such an organised and positive event with much support from passing motorists and local businesses.

"It was a peaceful but defiant turn-out, with campaigners standing alongside the police line.

"There were supporters from the Green Party, local councils, Unite and Unison unions, two teachers' union and anti-fracking groups from all over the UK.

"It is an amazing growing movement that will be good to watch throughout this year ahead. I hope and expect more will join as they see it affecting them and their families around the country.

"We are co-ordinating movements and groups to help each other's causes. The word 'unity' is a motivating theme. Local politicians' involvement showed much-needed representation and their passion too, as with others, shows their mutual involvement and kinship with folk here as with all across the land.

"There seems a recognition that we are in it together as people on the same level, metaphorically – and literally! - doing this side by side."

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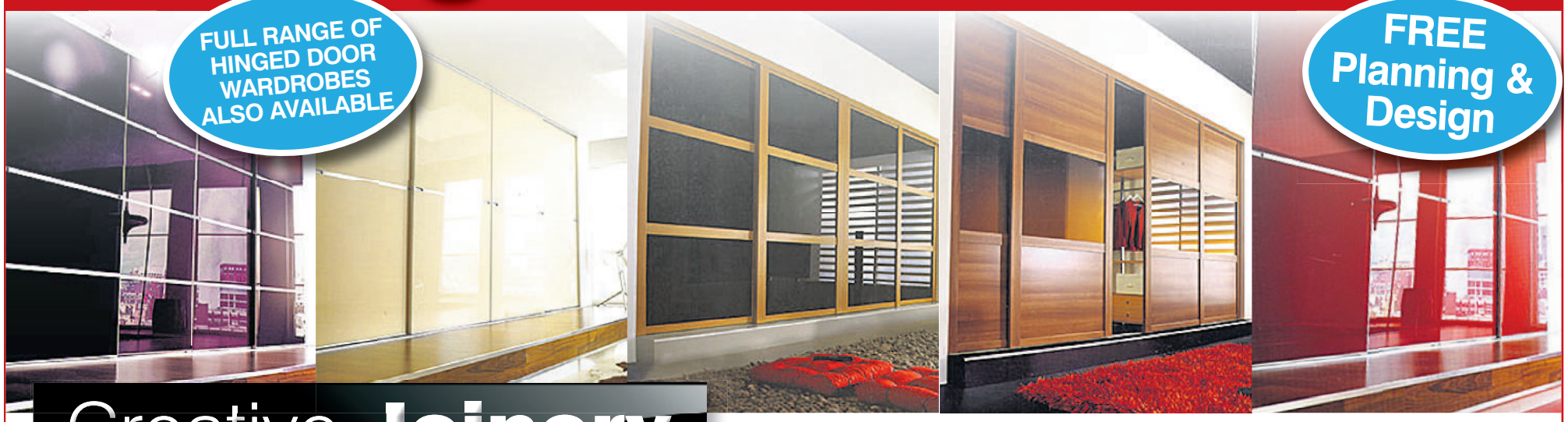

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Hub glitch left me still in the dark about who dunnit

I'M writing this because otherwise I would probably be throwing my digital television, along with its associated recording machine, through the window!

Some days ago I recorded an episode of *Inspector Morse* that I hadn't seen previously. I missed some because most were shown originally while my mother was alive and she reckoned they were too long to be regarded as evening entertainment.

Anyway, it was on ITV3 Freeview, my recorder duly accepted the booking and the display showed that this had been successfully accomplished.

So, a couple of nights later I settled back to enjoy the programme - and I did, for all of two hours. Then a warning appeared on screen telling me that ITV 3 closes two minutes after midnight and that 'programmes affected may be available on the ITV Hub' - whatever that might be!

Either way, I have no means of connecting to this hub or any other, and in any case, there were those ominous weasel words 'may be'. So I may never know who dunnit or how.

I have made no secret of the fact that I am, to my shame, computer illiterate. I rub along quite well in the 'real world' but would be the first to agree that some of these aps available now would be quite handy.

However, the fact remains that my TV is not equipped to show me the delights of the 'ITV Hub', and I suspect a rather large number of people are just as in the dark as to this magical device as I am.

But even if I could access the 'Hub', why on earth should I? Particularly since in this case at least, there is only a 'may be' chance of success anyway.

Along with many other ordinary folk, I am sick and tired of being treated as though I were a congenital idiot by organisations which are purported to report factually to everybody, whether they Tweet, blog or whatever, or not.

It's bad enough in news programmes to be told that the really interesting part of any particular news item will be shown on the 10 o'clock version of the 'news'; far worse when you are told that more can be found by 'going to....'. I can't and though in this case it is, to a large extent, my own choice, many, many others are in the same boat.

Another thing. I have spent a little time watching others use their computer to gain information about a particular subject, and it seems so easy. But I have also noticed that quite often the information given is in fact out of date - and wrong. It seems to me that the problem with some of these 'pages' is that they are composed at a particular moment in time, without the opportunity of the benefit of any kind of hindsight or second thought.

At times like these I can still feel better off without the computer's aid, and the more so when I read in trade magazines that some of the web sites which I might find the most useful, such as booking train tickets, either do not find the cheapest way of doing whatever, or come up with truly ridiculous routes.

One modern stupidity, which could prove quite dangerous for perceived thickos like myself, is the weather. Now the TV forecasts are perfectly good, if you happen to be able to watch when they are on.

But otherwise there is now no useful way for a person without the necessary knowledge and equipment to find out anything useful. I doubt if the remnant of the TV teletext service has long for this world anyway, but the BBC weather pages do at least give you some idea of what is afoot - though the forecast maps show only a sketchy idea of whether it will rain or not, and a rather dubious stab at temperatures. Why can these maps not also show wind speed and direction?

I seem to have got rather a long way from Chief Inspector Morse, but I'd bet he too would have regretted the computer's takeover of most people's daily lives and the sidelining of those who can't or won't totally accept it.

Call to look for early signs of eating disorders

PEOPLE in Lancashire who are concerned about their eating habits or those of a loved one are being encouraged to seek support as part of Eating Disorder Awareness Week 2017 (February 27-March 5).

Led by charity B-eat this year's campaign is focusing on early intervention which improves the chances of recovery.

Eating disorders are serious mental illnesses affecting around 725,000 men and women of all ages and backgrounds in the UK.

Lancashire Care's Eating Disorder service provides community support for people with complex presentations of eating disorders from age 16 upwards. And from April the service will accept referrals for children and young people from across the county, as well as adults.

The team includes specialist nurses, GPs, clinical psychologists and dieticians and offers support with psychological and physical health issues associated with eating disorders including anorexia, bulimia, binge eating disorder, emotional overeating, eating disorder not otherwise specified (EDNOS) and disordered eating/ eating problems.

Equipped

Lisa Moorhouse, mental health network director at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Anybody can develop an eating disorder so it is really important that we educate people around the illness so that they're equipped to seek help either for themselves or for someone around them that is suffering.

"This year's campaign is focusing on early intervention, as part of this we want people in Lancashire to be able to recognise the signs of these illnesses in order to improve and speed up the chance of recovery.

"Our service is dedicated to working with individuals affected by an eating disorder to provide a tailored plan of support and care to ensure they receive the very best care for them with a great outcome."

If you are concerned about the habits of someone you know, or if you are a carer for someone living with an eating disorder you can find more information at www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/eating-disorders. People can self-refer in to the service or get a referral from their GPs or another health professional.

Lisa Moorhouse, mental health network director at Lancashire Care Trust

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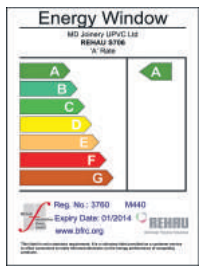

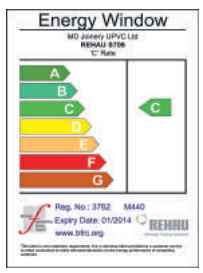

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West Lancs MG Owners Club chairman Ralph Greenhalgh presents a cheque to Martin Walsh from Blood Bikes North West

Car club's helping hand for good causes

MEMBERS of a classic car club have presented cheques of £100 to four good causes.

At the annual general meeting of the West Lancs MG Owners Club at the Briars Hall Hotel in Lathom, members were invited to nominate causes from across the North West to receive the donations with the 'winners' picked out of a hat.

The chosen recipients were the North West Blood Bikes' Lancs & Lakes division, Southport Gymnastics Club, Southport Offshore Rescue Trust and St Catherine's Hospice in Preston.

Steve Kirton from the West Lancs MG Owners Club, said: "Although they are not massive donations, it gives us a great feeling of warmth and satisfaction that we are helping good causes in our local area with our fundraising and donations."

Days left to bid for community awards

COMMUNITY groups in West Lancs have only days left to apply for a share of a £75,000 funding boost.

Entries must be submitted by Monday (March 6) for Yorkshire Bank's Spirit of the Community Awards 2017. The awards programme was launched earlier this year to recognise and support community projects which are going the extra mile.

Registered charities and not-for-profit organisations are invited to enter their projects in one of three categories: projects which help people to have a healthy relationship with money; those which help people to improve their local environment; and those which help people into employment.

The awards are open to a range of initiatives across the sector which can demonstrate support for the local community.

Five projects will be selected in each of the three categories and all 15 winners will be awarded £5,000 each.

Debbie Crosbie, chair of the Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank Foundation, said: "The Spirit of the Community Awards aim to recognise and support the vital contribution that voluntary and charitable projects make to their local communities and there is still time for groups in Lancashire to enter."

The winners will be announced in the summer. For more information or to enter, visit ybonline.co.uk/foundation.

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Carole Cochrane, chief executive of Rainbow House, meets Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne

Royal boost for Rainbow House

A CHARITY which offers education and rehabilitation services to children and young people with neurological conditions has received £25,000 from a fundraising dinner hosted by Princess Anne.

Staff at Rainbow House, in Salt Pit Lane, Mawdesley, teamed up with unpaid carers support charity, Carers Trust last year to support each other, share information and apply for joint funding opportunities.

The Princess Royal is president of Carers Trust and both charities were awarded £25,000 following a dinner held at Carers Trust's Mayfair base.

Carole Cochrane, chief executive at Rainbow House, said: "We were delighted to receive such a generous donation and we are extremely grateful to Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal for her support for both of our organisations and for unpaid carers throughout the country."

Company to host investment event

MANAGEMENT at a financial firm based in Burscough are set to host their second annual investment event.

Guest speakers from the North West's financial industry have been invited to speak at Acumen Financial Partnership's free event on Monday, March 13 from 2 to 5pm at their offices on the Swordfish Business Park.

They will talk to local business people and members of the public about inheritance tax and estate planning.

Guest speakers include Susan Sherry from Hill Dickinson Solicitors and Jaclyn King-Gibson from Rathbone Investment Management, who will discuss topics including wealth management, business property relief, succession planning and lasting powers of attorney.

Acumen's managing director, Angela Maher, said: "After the success of hosting our first investment event last summer, we couldn't wait to follow it up by inviting a new raft of industry leaders to share their knowledge.

"Once again, we've attracted some of the most respected and experienced speakers from leading UK financial firms to come to Burscough.

"It promises to be an informative and interesting afternoon."

For more information, visit acumenfinancial.co.uk/blog or to make a booking to attend, email info@acumenfinancial.co.uk

Acumen Financial Partnership's managing director Angela Maher and director Jon Landy who are hosting the free event later this month

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Parish council newsletter now available in Braille

BURSCOUGH Parish Council's quarterly newsletter will now be available for residents with visual impairment to read in Braille.

The newsletter is delivered to homes and businesses in the village, now those with visual impairments who don't use computers to access media, will be able to read it without relying on someone to read to them as the current newsletter is available at Burscough Library in Braille.

The service has been made available through the support of AA Transcription Services in Burscough.

Parish councillor Julie Atherton said: "We are delighted to offer a Braille version of our community newsletter.

"It is so important to us that all of our neighbours can access our news and information more readily. We are very proud of our inclusive approach."

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Appeal to secondary schools to sign up for free life-saving lessons

Ambulance services' support enlisted to provide country's biggest-ever CPR training event

Report by **Henry James**

THE North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust (NWAS) has launched an appeal to secondary schools in the region to sign up for a free lesson in life-saving.

The Resuscitation Council UK, the British Heart Foundation and St John Ambulance have enlisted the support of all UK ambulance services to provide the country's biggest-ever CPR training event on Restart a Heart Day on October 16.

Building on the success of Restart a Heart Day 2016, which saw more than 16,500 students in the North West, trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) skills, the event will be repeated this year with a national training target of 200,000 students.

Restart a Heart Day will see NWAS and local partners providing practical lessons that cover how to recognise cardiac arrest, and how to help by doing effective CPR and using a defibrillator.

Cardiac arrest is the most extreme emergency and happens when the heart stops beating in a normal way, preventing blood from pumping around the body. 80% of out of hospital cases happen in the home.

A person in cardiac arrest will die within minutes unless they are treated immediately with CPR and defibrillation. The CPR keeps oxygen circulating around the body to prevent damage to the brain and other organs, while a defibrillator gives an electric shock to the heart in an attempt to restore its normal rhythm.

Free lessons in life-saving will be on offer at Restart a Heart Day

Survival rates for people who have cardiac arrests are dismal with less than one in ten people in the UK (8.6%) going on to make a recovery.

Despite the best efforts of ambulance services and national bodies to lobby the UK government to make CPR training in schools mandatory, it is still not part of the national curriculum. But if CPR skills were taught in schools, survival rates could significantly increase as they have in Scandinavia.

Anyone can attempt CPR, but the lack of training means that people rarely have the confidence to do so. Only 30% of people who witness a cardiac arrest at home or in a public place will attempt CPR.

David McNally, complementary resources manager at NWAS, said: "We are encouraging all secondary schools to sign up to our lesson in lifesaving on Restart a Heart Day because cardiac arrest kills people and the power to change this lies within our communities.

"Knowing what to do in an extreme emergency situation cannot be underestimated. CPR skills are so simple to learn and they absolutely do save lives. We are targeting secondary schools because children pick up new skills with ease and can take them into adult life."

Schools that want to help to create the next generation of lifesavers can register their interest in Restart a Heart Day at www.nwas.nhs.uk/schools before Thursday, April 13.

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Renewed appeal to avoid using A&E except for life-threatening or serious conditions

PEOPLE are being urged to avoid using A&E at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals unless they have a serious or life-threatening condition.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust experienced an increase in A&E attendances on Monday (February 27), putting pressure on beds and delaying the admission of some patients.

Patients attending with minor ailments are being asked to attend West Lancashire Health Centre at Ormskirk Hospital for treatment.

Therese Patten, the trust's chief operating officer, said: "Local health and social care services have been collaborating closely this winter in both hospitals, community health services and with social care to improve the flow of patients through A&E departments, hospital wards and back into the community. But we also need our community's help and never more so than during this particularly busy period. Please help your local NHS by using A&E services wisely and thinking carefully before calling an ambulance.

"If you have a friend, relative or loved one already in hospital, you can also support our staff by helping to get them ready when it's time to go home.

"In the meantime, I want to apologise to anyone who is inconvenienced or caused unnecessary distress as a result of these difficult few days."

For people needing urgent help with minor illnesses or injuries no appointment is necessary at local walk-in centres. West Lancashire Health Centre at Ormskirk Hospital is open from 8am to 7.30pm all year round. Skelmersdale NHS Walk-in Centre at The Concourse is open from 8am to 7.30pm weekdays and from 9am to 5pm on weekends.

Alternatively you can ring 111, the NHS non-emergency number, to speak to a trained adviser, supported by healthcare professionals.

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Rattigan's Flare Path stands test of time

Review by **Ron Ellis**

Flare Path by Terence Rattigan
Southport Dramatic Club
Little Theatre Southport

THE evening started at 7pm with a musical concert in the theatre foyer whereby SDC members regaled us for half an hour with a selection of wartime songs that set the theme for the evening, after which we were ushered into the auditorium to be greeted by a stage adorned with portraits of Winston Churchill and King George VI, creating a perfect atmosphere for this production.

Set in the foyer of a hotel beside the Lincolnshire airfield where pilots of Bomber Command take off for their raids over Germany and where Rattigan himself served as a tail gunner, this classic play brought home what it was like for the families of servicemen in the Second World War, waiting for their sons and husbands to return safely from bombing missions over Germany.

Actress Patricia Graham (Emily Parr) married platoon joker, Flight Lieutenant Teddy Graham (Nathan Coleman) in haste after a whirlwind romance. But now her ex-lover, fading film star Peter Kyle (Brendan Gillow), turns up at the hotel to persuade her to return with him to the States.

Will she tell her husband she is leaving him before he sets off on a mission from which he may never return?

A scene from Flare Path. Picture by Fletcher Hill photography

Helen Bennett, sounding very like Susan Carter in The Archers, provided comic relief as Doris who is married to a Polish Count (Simon Armstrong, a man with a humorously poor acquaintance with the English language, while Marilyn Fletcher-Hill reprised her 1990 role as Maudie Miller, who has come to spend a rare night with her husband, Sergeant Dusty Miller (Giles Davidson) before returning to her wartime job in a laundry.

John Sharp obviously relished his role as an old duffer of a Squadron Leader, Gloria' Swanson, complete with a moustache that seemed to be taking over his face.

Helen Pickavance provided comic relief as the hotel chatelaine and Ellis Coulton gave an assured performance as Percy the young barman.

The tension built up as the planes' engines roared for the take-off leaving the women facing the long night ahead and dreading the worst. Would their men come safely home? The stoicism and 'stiff upper lip' attitudes of the time contrasted dramatically with the celebratory culture of today as epitomised by social networks but, directed by Margaret Mann, this was a performance which proved that 75 years since Flare Path first appeared, it has unarguably stood the test of time.

STAR RATING 8 out of 10. Still a classic.

Flare Path is being presented until this Saturday (March 4).

Three international concert musicians returning to Parbold

THREE international British concert musicians noted for their sense of fun and virtuosity return to Parbold Douglas Music to perform in the Arena Auditorium in the Village Hall on Saturday, March 11 at 7.45 pm.

Ashley Wass, piano, Matthew Trusler, violin, and Thomas Carroll, cello, are close friends and their sense of fun is reflected in taking Trio Apaches as their name which either comes from the French word for 'ruffians' – or possibly because it was the name of a group of artistic outcasts, including Igor Stravinsky, formed in Paris in the early 1900s.

Ashley, Matthew and Thomas are all concerto soloists regularly performing with top orchestras but they are also committed to chamber music. Their performances have seen them quickly rise on the international concert scene and are unanimously praised for the innovative nature of their programmes.

This shows in their Parbold programme when the three of them will play their own transcription of Rossini's William Tell Overture. Everyone knows its main theme, constantly used in The Lone Ranger TV series, because Rossini, nickname Signor Crescendo in his own lifetime for his exciting orchestrations, was known for his sense of fun and his boast of 'Give me the laundress' bill and I will even set that to music'.

Matthew Trusler, Ashley Wass and Thomas Carroll

The Parbold audience still remembers the performance of their transcription of Beethoven's Second Symphony.

Their programme in March includes famed trios by Felix Mendelssohn and Maurice Ravel.

In 2014 they received rave reviews for their first CD album, showcasing a new transcription of Debussy's La Mer and a setting of the Anglo-Saxon poem The Seafarer with Sir Willard White as the narrator.

To find out more and purchase tickets, visit www.parbold-douglasmusic.org, or telephone 01257498452 (bookinganswerphone). A limited number of stand-by tickets is always available at the Box Office on the evening of the concert.

Kyla Brown as Carole King and Bill Lennon as James Taylor

Time to 'Feel The Earth Move' at resort's theatre

IT'S time to Feel The Earth Move, this Friday (March 3), as the new musical biography You've Got A Friend hits Southport Theatre.

This heart-warming show celebrates two of the world's greatest songwriters of all time - James Taylor and Carole King.

This musical journey intertwines the music that shaped a generation, including classic hits such as I Feel The Earth Move, Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow, How Sweet It Is (To Be Loved By You), You Make Me Feel (Like A Natural Woman), Sweet Baby James and the beautiful You've Got A Friend.

The cast includes seasoned performer Kyla Brown, a classically trained singer and pianist, as Carole King, guitarist and vocalist Bill Lennon as James Taylor, and the show is completed by a cast of talented actor-musicians including Alan Parker, Matt Park and Matt Billups.

You've Got A Friend is brought to Southport by Maple Tree Entertainment, whose flagship show, the smash West End hit The Simon & Garfunkel Story, has been welcomed by audiences several times in the town.

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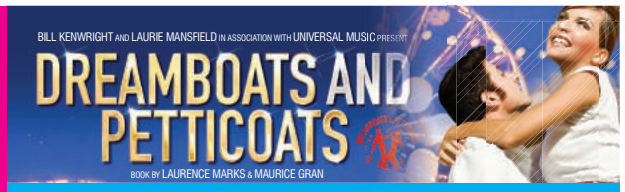
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LAWNMOWER Dobbies, hand push, 15in cut, used once, as new, cost £45, will accept £20 01704 876855

WHEELBARROW galvanised garden wheelbarrow, good condition £10 01704 876855

WEED SUPPRESSANT Mypex fabric weed control, half roll, approx. 50meters, will accept £40 01704 876855

BLACK BIN durable plastic dustbin with clip on lid. Unused. £5 07855222552/07821417560

2 BIRD nesting boxes-brand new/well made in solid wood. Painted chestnut colour. W6"D6"H8.5". £5 each 07855222552

HOSE REEL Portable unit with hand winding drum and 50 metre hose and spray attachment. Little used in good condition. £15 01695422006

BOSCH LAWN MOWER Electric rotary mower with collection box and long lead cable and new RCD safety switch. unit in good condition £25 01695422006

HOBBIES

SEA FISHING 3 beach castor rods, 3 boat rods, 3 tubular cases, 3 multiplier reels, £75 the lot or might separate 01704 574986

WANTED fishing dvds or videos, ask for Brian 01704 574986

HOBBIES

VIDEO CASSETTES The World War narrated by Laurence Olivier, period from 1933-1941. 6 x £5 = £30 01704 461083

FLUTE Yokoyama in hard carrying case, excellent condition £150 01695 420156

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10X50 BINOCULARS in mint condition, Chinon 7-degree extrawide field-of-view, complete with case and all 4 lens caps. £30. 01695 578368

COCKATEEL CAGE VGC, height and stand 64", cage height 38", length 34", width 18", Seaforth, buyer collects £70 ono 01512849075

SEWING MACHINE Brother LS2125 sewing machine with instructions, excellent working order, perfect for beginners, £25 Tel: 07896115800

MAMIYAC33 TLR f2.8 80mm lens lovely condition including original hand book and Weston master V light meter £200 01695 421548

PRAKTIKA BC1 35mm TLR f1.8 mm lens and two additional Pentacon lenses 28mm and 70-210 zoom additional lenses never used £80 01695421548

BOOKS X 50 by Sophie Kinsella, Danielle Steele, Joseph Delaney and many more ideal for car boot sale all like new £20 01704 875299

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HOBBIES

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT

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FLAT CONTENTS table plus 2 chairs, 3 blinds - all complete, extra slates with them, deep fat fryer, 0.9 never been used, everything modern 07835815153

KINGSIZE DUVET 15 tog in very good clean condition, £10 no offers. 2 table lamps, no shades £4 each, no offers 07835 815153

SOFA BED brand new, never used, in cream coloured cloth material, £400 07825 981686

FITTED KITCHEN Several corner, base, larder and wall units, appliance housing, sink and taps. Good condition. Photos emailed or view in situ. Southport. £100 07906 501206

3 SEATER sofa, 1 year old in soft hard-wearing material, latte colour with mahogany legs, £350 ono 01695 340493

VAX HOOVER hardly used £30. Bathroom ceiling light, unused still in box £20. Water and waste containers with bags, vgc, for caravan£45 0151 5269315

CONSERVATORY BLIND roller blind pale green 64ins drop 113ins long £25 ono 01704532648

WROUGHT IRON security/ornamental panels, heavy duty, 113cm x 113cm and 185cm x 60cm door shape, £10 each 01704 877559

VACUUM CLEANER Vax upright and bagless, as new, assembled and tested £35 01704 877559

DOUBLE WARDROBE pine, ideal child's room £25. Single bed, pine headboard, lovely condition £15 01704 821597

STAG CHERRYWOOD bedroom furniture, one double wardrobe, dressing table with mirror, upholstered stool and bedside cabinet, £125, buyer collects - perfect for upcycling 01695 420156

HOUSE AND HOME

FITTED KITCHEN retro green, good condition £250 01515271013

JARMAN & PLATT bedroom 4 drawer chest with top cupboard and glass top, 40" high 30" wide, including matching triple mirror, £70 Tel: 01704547547

HOOVER VISION HD 8kg dryer, hardly used and in good condition £40 07775 906620

SOLID WOOD medium oak round extending to oval dining table and 6 solid wood chairs, £250 ono, can deliver locally, vgc 07775 906620

3PC SUITE Stokers, 2 x electric reclining armchairs and 3 seater reclining settee (beige/brown), never used, still wrapped, too large £800 Tel: 07775906620

IKEA BOOKCASE Assembled ready, tall, slim, teak veneer finish. Normally 6 shelves, has 2 extra. 40 x 202cm, depth 28cm. Only £22, buyer collect 07810053959

RUG cream coloured rug 7ft+5ft in size ex/condition £40 01695 322096

100-WATT LIGHT-BULBS genuine Osram, unopened box. Traditional tungsten bulbs with clear glass and standard bayonet B22 fitting. £1 each. 01695 578368

BATHROOM CABINET Stainless steel with full mirrored door, 1 shelf. 50cm tall by 30cm wide by 15cm deep (19 3/4" x 12" x 6"). Excellent condition. £30. 01695578368

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DOUBLE WARDROBE H72" W36" D20", 6 drawer chest H31" W44" D15" £220. Almost new, buyer must collect. 07791450921

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LAURA ASHLEY Two glass lamps with cream pleated shades £40 07786 298207

G-PLAN 3 piece suite teal colour, pristine condition, one chair used only £750 ono. Buyer collects, no texts please 01704 892323

SINGLE BED 3ft Gere White wood frame bed excellent condition,£90 ono 07918685499

WORKTOP black brazil high gloss worktop 2800x600x38mm new unused £30 Rufford 01704621635

NESTING TABLES 3 tables maple oval largest 800x520mm very good condition £35 Rufford 01704621635

LEATHER SETTEE 4 seater and large arm chair in cream/beige leather, excellent condition. £120 ono. After 6pm. 01512878048

CURTAINS in gold/beige patterned material.2 pairs 58" drop x 216" wide each pair.excellent condition £40. 07702997311

SMOOTHIE MAKER kenwood new York smoothie maker in chrome/black.Hardly used and in excellent condition £18 07702997311

MEERKAT DOORSTOP Brand new super cute meerkat doorstop from Marks and Spencer. Comes with all labels and tags attached. £15. 01704 877876

DINING TABLE Dark rosewood 0.95 mtrs wide x 1.5 mtrs long extends to 1.9 mtrs in very good condition £120.00 ono 01704 538825

LEATHER SOFA Tan leather 3 seater sofa. Collection only. £25 01695573969

OAK FURNITURE From Next range solid oak sideboard, matching bookcase and coffee table. £130 ono Halsall 07515270097

DYSON DC14 Upright vacuum cleaner with tools. Excellent pick-up and very good condition. £55 01704 560150

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HALL / OCCASIONAL TABLE Mahogany (no chipboard) drop leaf table with under shelf. H 25 inches. 10.5 x 20 opens to 30 x 20 inches Good solid condition £28 ono 01704 560150

LARGE MIRROR Bevelled mirror in walnut frame. 96 cm x 96 cm. Very good condition. £35 ono 01704 560150

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SUITCASE SMALL four wheeled, hard shell, locking, new unused gift £20.00, ono 01704540504

CEILING LIGHTS Two Peach Coloured Top Quality Glass Pendant Lights with Brass Fittings plus three matching wall-light shades. Picture available £30.00 01704 893484

KESHAN RUG Royal Keshan. New Zealand Wool. Beige& Terra cotta. 200cm x 140cm. Exc. Condition. Used as feature under coffee table. Photo available £100.00 01704 893484

HOUSE AND HOME

ORMSKIRK PRINT Limited Edition Ormskirk church print. Hand coloured.Taken from original lithograph by Paul Breen. Exc. condition. [160 of 350] £25.00 01704 893484

TV CABINET Mahogany TV Cabinet with drop-down door and slide-out shelf for dvd/video player or storage. Exc. condition. £45.00 01704 893484

VACUUM CLEANER upright Dyson dc14 with tools, perfect working order, can deliver £45 01704214498

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OMAS OM10E electronic dehumidifier, floor standing, suit large room, little used, £35 ono 01704214498

WHITE Metal single bed head and foot ends (frame only no mattress) £10 01704 536243

BOSCH DISHWASHER Full size, good condition, only reason for sale had an intergrated one fitted. £95.00 ono 07752568443 01704229858

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CLASS TEACHER

Moorside Primary School, Skelmersdale

Grade	**Main Pay Scale**
Term	**Full Time**
Perm / Temp	**Permanent after successful probationary period**
Required	**From 01/09/2017**
Closing Date	**12 noon 10/03/2017**

Moorside CP Academy governors, staff and pupils are looking to appoint a highly motivated, dynamic, hard working and enthusiastic class teacher to join the family of Moorside CP Academy. We are seeking an outstanding teacher who is passionate about learning. You will be highly ambitious for your pupils and ensure they are truly engaged in their learning. You will understand the importance of being accountable for children's progress. You will work with colleagues to contribute to the development of Moorside pupils as caring young members of the school and wider community.

The successful candidate will:
- have high expectations of learning and behaviour for themselves and others.
- be committed to raising standards.
- be supportive of the distinctive SEAL character of our school.

We can offer:
- vibrant children who enjoy school and want to reach their fullest potential.
- a committed and forward thinking staff and Governing Body.
- supportive parents.
- a well resourced and outstanding school.

Applications for NQT's are welcomed

Essential Qualifications: Qualified Teacher Status
Desirable Experience: Working in Key Stage 2
Proposed Interview Date: Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th March 2017

Visits to the school are welcome on the following dates:
7/3/2017 4pm and 8/3/2017 4pm

Please contact Emma Harding to inform us of your intended visit or for any further information on 01695 722931.

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St John's Catholic Primary School
Chapel Lane, Lathom, Ormskirk L40 7RA (89 on roll)

Nursery Manager

Ref: 161060

£10.00 an hour.

32.5 hours a week. Required 18 April 2017 until the return of the post holder. To work during term-time.
Suitably qualified and experienced person to manage the nursery unit for maternity leave.
Essential: You must be qualified to level 3.
The post you are applying for is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Act 1975. If successful you will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a 'disclosure'.
Interview date: 14 March 2017.

Application forms: The Headteacher at the school.
Closing date: 10 March 2017 at 12 noon.

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St John's Catholic Primary School
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Business support officer

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28 hours a week. Required as soon as possible to 31 August 2017, to work during term-time. The Governors at St John's CP School are seeking to appoint a highly motivated person to work in our busy school office. You will need a friendly manner, good organisational skills, and the ability to work on your own initiative. You will be the first point of contact for visitors and must be able to deal sensitively with children, parents and outside agencies.
Essential: You must have a minimum of 4 GCSE's at Grade C or above including English and Maths, have experience of computing including word and excel, be able to work as part of a team, be able to work on own initiative, have commitment to safeguarding and protecting the welfare of children and young people.
Informal discussion: Mrs Annette Nicholson, School Business manager.
The post you are applying for is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Act 1975. If successful you will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a 'disclosure'.
Interview date: 21 March 2017.

Application forms: Mrs A Nicholson, at the school.
Closing date: 15 March 2017.

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Lancashire County Council

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WALL MIRROR with ornate wooden frame L52" x W17" ex con £35 07821417560

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CLASSY YEW Canterbury made by Bevan Funnel, brass castors, one drawers with brass knobs £50 ono 01704 565612

ANTIQUE VINTAGE cocktail cabinet, walnut with carved cabriole legs with pierced apron glass top, vgc £125 01704 541417

PICTURE(24"X19") in sepia of Victorian fireman carrying young girl in his arms. Mahogany carved frame/gold gilt edging. VGC. £25 07821417560 or 07855222552

FOOD WASTE DISPOSER new in box, Insinkerator model 45, galvanised steel, one stage grind, easy installation, continuous feed, cost £180 - accept £100 01704 874189

PINE BED 3/4 size, no mattress, excellent condition £30 07539449430

MIELE DISHWASHER model G646SC turbo thermic plus, good condition £100 ono 01704 560518

3-PIECE SUITE M&S £50 ono. Mahogany fire surround £25 01704 578582

SHOWER CUBICLE 800 2 base 2x1/4 sliding doors, nice condition £50. Roller blonds: terracotta 6'drop 3'wide, pink 6'drop 2'10w, £5 each 01704 808614

VACUUM CLEANERS Sego German-make 2100 watt £20 ono. Panasonic MC-E451 £20 ono 0151 5260731

PICTURE & MIRROR M&S oriental picture and a separate pine framed mirror 19.5 x 14 inches. £8.00 07434841029

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FRIDGE FREEZER Daewoo model DFF470SW in excellent condition original cost £240. Genuine reason for sale due down sizing. One year old. £180 01695422006

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MISC

RECORDS WANTED indie, rock & roll, 60's pop and beat, rock, folk, punk etc. Bought for cash. Cigarette & bubble gum cards also bought. 01704 566210 after 6pm

AMAZON FIRESTICK wanted with remote please will buy and collect thanks 01515319425/07773242918

SHOPPING TROLLEY Marketeer Shopping Trolley 4 Wheel Red wheel away for £10 Ormskirk 01695574988

DOUBLE RADIATOR with valve 55ins long 12ins deep £15 ono 01704 532648

25 BREEZE BLOCKS used, need cleaning, FREE 01704 532648

FIRE WOOD fire wood £35 ono a stack 01704 532648

BOOKCASE Light wood veneer finish Bookcase with adjustable shelving. Ready assembled, 60 x 106cm depth 26 cm. Buyer collect please £15 07810053959

PAPERBACK BOOKS Josephine Cox x 6, Lyn Andrews x 8, Ruth Hamilton x 6, all good condition, 40p each 01519249344

SAMSUNG GALAXY S4 mini black mist smartphone in mint condition very light use in original box inc charger and 2 screenguards £85 07729991241

PHILLIPS FACIAL sunlamp hardly used healty tan all year round cost £85 bargain £20 01515319425 or 07773242918

DARTBOARD AND DARTS good quality ones as used in pubs darts are harrow in case bargain £20 01515319425/07773242918

RAM fx recovery club 24* loft head cover used twice bargain £20.00 01515319425 or 07773242918

NEW TAYLOR Made 6 iron left handed, ideal if starting out going the driving range bargain £20 01515319425/07773242918

30 X LIVERPOOL FA cup charity shield programmes 70s upwards the lot £30 01515319425/07773242918

NEW WIG in box unused light brown / blonde, short style, £25.00 ono 01704540504

REMINGTON RAZOR Titanium limited edition, flex & pivot technology with trimmer recharge LED display Brand new £35 01704871580

MISC

TRAVEL CASE Large, black, used once, (cost £139) sell for £60 01704 535410

FLIGHT BAG Carlton International, with hand/shoulder handles, black. W14"H13"D7". Main storage area/4 other pockets. No broken zips/flaws/fading. Ex con £4 07855222552

GREEN HOLDALL Voyager by International, with hand & shoulder handles, zipped compartment either end. L27" D134" H13" As new. £5.00 Tel: 07855222552

METAL FRAMED rucksack. Ideal for DofE/long distance walking/carrying climbing ropes. No broken zips. Good condition. £5 07855222552/07821417560

GIBSONS JIGSAWS 3x1000pieces:Our House 1950, The Evacuees, 1950s Toy Box memories. £3 each. Selection of other 500 piece jigsaws. All complete £1.50 each 07855222552/07821417560

JERRY CAN 20 litre green, for petrol or diesel, good condition £10 07449 537301

GAS FITTERS testing gauge blow lamp with nozzle £40 07817 536639

BEATRIX POTTER silver plated spoon, 6 in original box, rare £45 07817 536639

IPHONE4 32GB Excellent condition full working order, unlocked to any network, original box, cable and charger, case £100 01704831977

BEREAVEMENT ITEMS Small items of furniture, light shades, mirrors, china, foot stools , pictures, vases, gifts sets, and much more from £5 07434841029

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Announcements

PRAYERS

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

Never known to fail.

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, faithful Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, O Holy Mary Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in my necessity.

(Make Request).

There are none that can withstand your powers. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 Times).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3 times).

Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine.

This prayer must be said for three days and after that the request will be granted and the prayer must be published.

CPC

DEATHS

BEDDOES KATHRYN

Peacefully at home with her family on 16th February 2017

Beloved wife of Terry, Devoted mum of Neil, Paul, Lynsey, Mark and Daniel and Loving Grandmother to Michael, Caitlin, Jack, Bradley, Kyle, Dylan, Kelsey, Junior and Joshua.
Funeral at West Lancs Crematorium, Pippin Lane, Burscough L40 7SP on Tuesday 7th March at 13.00 and afterwards at Briars Hall Hotel, Briars Lane, Lathom, L40 5TH.
Family Flowers only, Donations to Queenscourt Hospice

FLETCHER AUDREY

22nd February 2017
Aged 72 Years
Peacefully in Queenscourt Hospice with her family beside her

Dearly loved Wife of John, Mother to Richard and Caroline, much loved Nanna to Leah, Kelsey and Bradley, special loving Sister to Norma and Joan, sadly missed by her Nieces and Nephews.
Grateful thanks to all staff at Queenscourt Hospice for their devoted care with special thanks to Dr Anne Pocock. A celebration of her life will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Monday 6th March at 1pm. Family flowers only please but donations to Queenscourt Hospice much appreciated. Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors, 311 Hesketh Lane, Tarleton. PR4 6RJ. Tel 01772 811165

DEATHS

BIRCH HILDA

22nd February 2017
Aged 92 years

Died peacefully at Ormskirk Hospital. Loving Sister to Audrey and Clarice. Hilda will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Southport Crematorium on Wednesday 8th March at 2:40pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Guide Dogs for the Blind. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

MERRICK KEITH

17th February 2017-
Aged 86

Reunited with beloved Nora. Much loved dad of Kathryn (sadly deceased 16/2/17) David and Alyson. Loving Grandad, Great Grandad and friend to many . Service to be held on Tuesay 7th March at 1pm at West Lancs Crematorium, Pippin St. Family flowers only please. Donations to Queens Court Hospice. He will be very sadly missed by all but forever in our hearts. Rest in Peace Keith.

HARVEY JACQUELINE

(Jackie)
Passed away
20th February 2017

Loving Daughter in law to Elaine, Sister in law to Nick & Lorraine, Auntie to Andrew, Jonathan & Daniel.
Will be sadly missed.
God Bless Jackie.
xxx

To book your FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
call 01704 392 392
adverts.champnews.com

DEATHS

HODGES RITA

22nd February 2017
Peacefully in hospital, aged 70 years

Loving Wife of the late Alf, devoted Mum of Lorraine, Ian and Lesley, dear Mother-in-law of Tony, Tina and Eddie, cherished Nan of all her grandchildren, caring Sister of Julie. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 2nd March at 10.30am. Family flowers only please by request donations if desired for British Lung Foundation or PDSA. All enquiries to Margarte Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel 01695 559868.

LEWIN ELIZABETH (Betty)

11th February 2017
Peacefully at St Joseph's Hospice
Aged 86 years

Dear Sister of Clara (Dec). Cliff, George (Dec) and Maureen. Much loved Aunt to all her Nieces and Nephews. Betty will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Service and Cremation at Thornton Crematorium on Monday March 6th at 11.20am no flowers please but if desired donations to St Joseph's Hospice C/o H. Leslie Humphreys 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby, L23 5SE Tel: 0151 924 4805

HENNESSEY JEANETTE ROSE

19.4.1939 - 22.2.2017

Devoted Wife of Tommy. Loving Mother to Stephen, Kenneth and Debra. Sadly missed by all the Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. Service at St Richards RC Church Skelmersdale on Thursday 2nd March at 11.30am followed by St Helens Crematorium 12.30pm and Skelmersdale Cricket Club.
Family flowers only. Donations can be made to Queenscourt Hospice Southport. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services 01695 731199.

Announcements

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DEATHS

EASTHAM DEREK

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday 21st February 2017 in The Wigan Infirmary and of Shevington, with his family by his side Aged 80 years

Dearly loved Husband of Catherine, loving Dad of Carol and Gary, much loved Father-In-Law of Michael and Julie, devoted Grandad Popop of Gillian, Karen, Charlotte, Amy, Grace, Evie and Jack, Great Grandad of Thomas, Joshua, Niamh and Freya, A dear Uncle, Cousin and friend to many.
Family flowers only please donations in Derek's memory for the "Meningitis Research Foundation" Via the family.
Funeral service will be held at St Anne's Church Shevington on Tuesday 7th March at 2pm with Committal at Southport Crematorium at 3:20pm All enquiries to Bolton's Funeral Service 27a Haigh Road, Aspull, Wigan WN2 1LB
Tel: 01942 831262
www.boltonsfunerals.co.uk

CULLEN JOSEPHINE

18th February 2017

Peacefully in Hospital aged 83 years.

Josephine will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.
Funeral service at St Williams of York Church Thornton on Tuesday March 7th at 12noon followed by Cremation at Thornton Crematorium family flowers only please any enquiries to H. Leslie Humphreys 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE
Tel: 0151 924 4805

Check out **champnews.com**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IDDON NELLIE

The family of Nellie would like to thank all who attended the funeral on Thursday, also for the cards, kind words and donations.

A special thanks to Reverend Dave for a lovely service, also to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors for their kind and caring arrangements.

MANSON ANDREW GORDON

Don, Beryl and family thank everyone that came to Andrew's funeral and for the generous donations made to The Friends of St. Josephs. Thank you to the Reverend Kath Rogers for conducting a beautiful service. Also heartfelt thanks to Yvette, Debbie Colette, Victoria and Jo for such wonderful care, compassion and love shown to Andrew. Thank you to H. Leslie Humphreys Funeral Directors for caring and professional arrangements.

FAMILY ANNOUNCEMENTS
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IN MEMORIAM

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

The hardest thing in life to bear, is to want your Nan and she's not there.

Loving granddaughter Alison X X

Love and miss you loads Gran, Great Granddaughter Aimée X X

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

We can't have the old days back when we were all together, but secret tears and loving thoughts will be with us forever.
Love and miss you always Mum

Gary, Angela, Abbie and Chloe
XXXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

Nan we miss you more than words can say, In our hearts you will always stay, Loved and remembered every day.

Grandson Phil, Kelly and Great Grandson Daniel
XXX

PIGGOTT MAUREEN

2nd March 2017

Nine long years Moe. I just hope and pray you are happy and free of pain.
RIP Maureen.
Love Ken
x

IN MEMORIAM

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

I wish that I could see you Mum for just a little while, I wish that I could hug you and see your lovely smile, I miss you most when I need a friend, On you I always could depend, Kind and thoughtful a Mum so true, My dearest possession is the memory of you.
Loving daughter San and Alec
XXXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

No words or verse could ever say, the loss we've felt since you went away.

Think about you every day Mam, love and miss you

Son Alan & Carol
XXXX

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

STODDERN PAMELA IN LOVING MEMORY

24-02-1957 to 07-03-2013

Happy 60th Birthday

Wife, Mum & Nan
4 Years since you were taken
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xx

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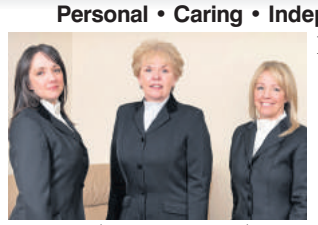

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MOBILITY

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WALKING FRAME never used, brand mew h83cm d21cm w18cm £30. Crown green bowls, Taylor express 2lb 11oz £65 07789 143415

MOTHER AND BABY

CHILD CARRIER Poco Plus in grey, cost £180, used twice, £50 ono Tel 07980 713838

MOTHERCARE BED low pine toddler bed 140 x 70cm, good used condition, can deliver locally, includes mattress if required £45 ono Birkdale 01704 568606 or 07850935406

MOTHERCARE FIRST BED Low pine bed 190 x 85cm, good used condition, takes standard 6'3''x 2'6'' mattress, included if required £55 ono Birkdale 01704 568606 or 07850935406

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BABY GATES Lindham pressure fit, walk through, safety gate £12 ono Birkdale 01704 568606 or 07850935406

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MOTHER AND BABY

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BRIGHTSTART BABYWALKERS as new 2 x brightstarts babywalkers £15 each 01965722596

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TRAVEL COT Graco, excellent clean condition, folds up neatly in to travel bag, no longer needed by grandparents £12 07813094247

MOSES BASKET good clean condition £6 07539 449430

SILVER CROSS pram, navy and white with shopping tray and extras, excellent condition £60 07539 449430

GOLD CHAIN beautiful multi loop links solid 22" 9ct gold chain, approx. 12 grams, case, would make lovely present £200 01704831977

MOTORING

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MOTORING

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K HEADLIGHT Used Mk 1 Ford Ka passenger side headlight genuine Valeo brand headlight. In very good condition. £15.00 01704 546978

HYDRAULIC JACK 2 tone lift, little used £5. Full size pick, good condition £4 01704 534969

TRAILER 5'6 X 4' Indespension, new tyres, swan neck drop tailgate, good condition, lights working £425. Ideal gardener or camping 07449 537301

PETS

DOG CAGE metal dog cage 43ins long 26ins high 26ins wide £40 ono 01704 532648

RABBIT HUTCH Rose Cottage Hutch with Thermal Cover from Pets at Home. 4' x 8' Run plus extras £180 in good condition 01704224499

NEW BIRDCAGE New Bird cage suitable for parrots cockatiels budgies canaries etc.5ft6in tall by 2ftx2ft opens at top cost £160.bargain £70.Can Deliver. 07714942581

EXOTERRA VIVARIUM 90x45x60, uva and heat lights with accessories £125, can deliver locally 07835 167538

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

SNOOKER CUES 1£10 1£20 Two piece. One with case. John Spencer. Mob 07518963736

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

NORDIC TRACK RUNNING MACHINE space saving £150 ono Tel: 07980713838

GOLF TROLLEY Pull along type £8 ono Birkdale 01704 568606 or 07850935406

HOME GYM &TREADMILL Pro 3 Models, as new, rarely used, need space in garage. £220 the pair 07946068664

FITBIT FLEX brand new in sealed box Bargain £65 07729991241

OCEAN GOLF stand, bag, Black Diamond, Wilson Malibu H-Bird clubs, silver/metal club covers, 2 umbrellas, push along golf trolley, £75ono, collect 01704572562

WONDERCORE II fitness system, duel resistance, built in twisting seat, achieve strong sexy six pack, abs, resistance bands, chest/back, £80ono, collect 01704 572562

FITNESS TRAMPOLINE Trampette, good condition, £15 01519249344

TITLEIST DCI irons 4 iron to sand wedge 8 clubs in total bargain £30 01515319425 or 07773242918

NIKE 6 iron new quality red grip bargain £20 01515319425 or 07773242918

TAYLOR MADE 6 iron new tour preferred bargain £20 01515319425/07773242918

GOLF WEDGE Bullet 52 degree wedge. Little used. £10. o.n.o. 07773 698733

GOLF IRONS Acer irons: 3- sw Total of 9. Little used vgc. £20 o.n.o. 07773 698733

LADIES WILSON golf clubs irons driver 3 wood 5 wood bag and putter ideal for beginner bargain the lot £25 01515319425/07773242918

LOB WEDGE hippo 60* loft very good condition £10 bargain 01515319425/07773242918

KETTLER 5KG(11LB) dumbbells - purple coloured. £5 07855222552

TREO FITNESS T932 treadmill £100 ono, excellent condition, cost £900 new 0151 5260731

LADIES GOLF SHOES Size five and half to six, made by Dexter in white and tan hardly been worn. £8.00 07434841029

KETTLEBELLS PAIR 4kg each, mint condition, ab rollup, stomach trainer. £20 07504888423

TOYS AND GAMES

STAR WARS VINTAGE WANTED. Check your loft for those those old unwanted figures/vehicles. Anything considered. Email stueverton@aol.com or Text 07977079009

TOYS AND GAMES

FISHER PRICE Kidtough waterproof digital camera for toddlers Pink £5 Tel: 07729991241

STAR WARS At-At and Scout Walker £30 01704 878182

CHILDS PEDAL go-kart, suit age 3-7, good condition £20 01704 576856

ASHTON DRAKE re-born baby doll, very cute £25 0151 5271013

HARRY POTTER DVD collection 8 films, film 6 has limited edition case & comes with bonus scenes. In immaculate condition £20 01704 875299

PEPPA PIG'S house/garden playset, with wee pigs / house, garden accessories & carrying handle. Similar to one in Argos (P1476). VGC £5 07855222552

VINTAGE WADDINGTON'S Spyring game-unused. In original box. 2-4players, £5 07855222552 or 07821417560

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2017/0107/FUL Proposed dwelling to replace existing house and provide improved living and bedroom accommodation at 2 Mossy Lea Fold, Wrightington.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

Application No: 2017/0109/FUL First floor rear dormer extension and balcony to existing clubhouse at Tarleton RUFC, Carr Lane, Tarleton.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2017/0112/FUL Single storey rear extension with rooflights at Haselmere, 16 Junction Lane, Burscough.

Application No: 2017/0149/FUL Two storey rear extension with rooflights. Alterations within the property at 4 Mill Leat Mews, Parbold.

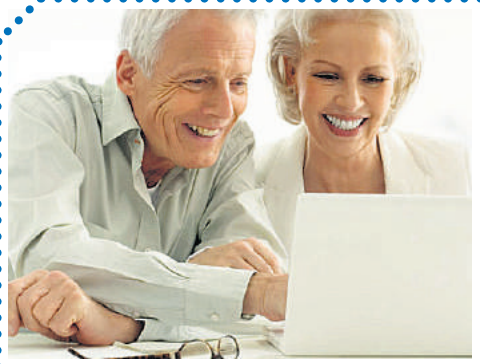
Application No: 2017/0167/FUL Single storey extension to the rear of the property. Replacement of the existing single glazed timber sliding sash windows to front elevation with double glazed timber sash windows in the same style. Re-pointing to the front and gable elevations with lime mortar. Re-roof with existing stone slabs at Greenhill Farm, Ash Brow, Newburgh.

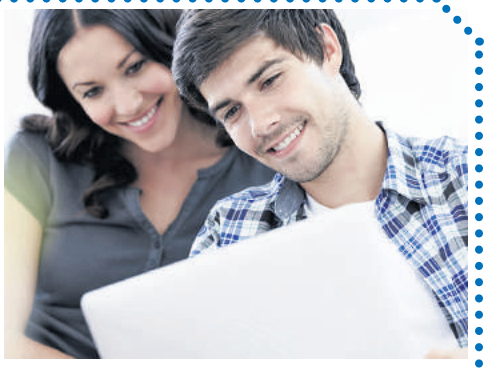
Application No: 2017/0168/LBC Listed Building Consent - Single storey extension to the rear of the property. Replacement of the existing single glazed timber sliding sash windows to front elevation with double glazed timber sash windows in the same style. Re-pointing to the front and gable elevations with lime mortar. Re-roof with existing stone slabs at Greenhill Farm, Ash Brow, Newburgh.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Dated: 1st March 2017
Director of Development and Regeneration PDNOT937





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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council – Council Tax 2017/2018

Notice is hereby given that on 22nd February 2017, the West Lancashire Borough Council in accordance with section 30 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 set for the chargeable year beginning 1st April 2017 Council Tax Rates including the Council Tax Rates set by Lancashire County Council, the Lancashire Combined Fire Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.

For dwellings within each property band and situated in those parts of the Councils area to which no special item relates as detailed below:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
NON-PARISHED AREAS	1096.30	1279.01	1461.73	1644.45	2009.89	2375.32	2740.75	3288.90

For dwellings within each property band and situated in those parts of the Councils area to which a special item relates as detailed below:

	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D	Band E	Band F	Band G	Band H
AUGHTON	1107.16	1291.68	1476.21	1660.74	2029.80	2398.85	2767.90	3321.48
BICKERSTAFFE	1116.47	1302.55	1488.63	1674.71	2046.87	2419.03	2791.18	3349.42
BISPHAM	1101.99	1285.64	1469.31	1652.98	2020.32	2387.64	2754.97	3305.96
BURSCOUGH	1119.89	1306.54	1493.19	1679.84	2053.14	2426.44	2799.73	3359.68
DALTON	1109.69	1294.63	1479.58	1664.53	2034.43	2404.32	2774.22	3329.06
DOWNHOLLAND	1117.75	1304.04	1490.33	1676.63	2049.22	2421.80	2794.38	3353.26
GREAT ALTCAR	1105.47	1289.71	1473.96	1658.21	2026.71	2395.20	2763.68	3316.42
HALSALL	1111.31	1296.53	1481.75	1666.97	2037.41	2407.85	2778.28	3333.94
HESKETH WITH BECCONSALL	1123.68	1310.95	1498.24	1685.52	2060.09	2434.64	2809.20	3371.04
HILLDALE	1130.17	1318.53	1506.89	1695.26	2071.99	2448.71	2825.43	3390.52
LATHOM	1107.37	1291.93	1476.49	1661.06	2030.19	2399.31	2768.43	3322.12
LATHOM SOUTH	1116.10	1302.11	1488.13	1674.15	2046.19	2418.22	2790.25	3348.30
NEWBURGH	1116.28	1302.32	1488.37	1674.42	2046.52	2418.61	2790.70	3348.84
NORTH MEOLS	1114.81	1300.60	1486.41	1672.21	2043.82	2415.42	2787.02	3344.42
PARBOLD	1119.11	1305.62	1492.14	1678.66	2051.70	2424.73	2797.77	3357.32
RUFFORD	1121.77	1308.73	1495.69	1682.66	2056.59	2430.51	2804.43	3365.32
SCARISBRICK	1105.63	1289.90	1474.17	1658.45	2027.00	2395.54	2764.08	3316.90
SIMONSWOOD	1110.81	1295.94	1481.08	1666.22	2036.50	2406.77	2777.03	3332.44
TARLETON	1117.50	1303.74	1490.00	1676.25	2048.76	2421.25	2793.75	3352.50
UPHOLLAND	1110.47	1295.54	1480.62	1665.70	2035.86	2406.01	2776.17	3331.40
WRIGHTINGTON	1105.07	1289.24	1473.42	1657.60	2025.96	2394.31	2762.67	3315.20

Kim Webber B.Sc.,M.Sc.,
Chief Executive
West Lancashire Borough Council
52 Derby Street, Ormskirk
West Lancashire, L39 2DF
www.westlancs.gov.uk

1st March 2017

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PUBLIC NOTICES

HUGH GREENWOOD
(Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 174 Prescot Road Aughton Ormskirk L39 5AG, who died on 31/12/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 12/05/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
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To keep an extra 40 trailers at the operating centre at Stavely Industrial Estate, Stavely Road, Skelmersdale, WN8 8DZ.

Owners or occupiers of the land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NG, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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Friday 24th February 2017

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£1500 = 188513 £100 = 19334
Winners of £20 are as follows:

14116	12073
178858	21761
22138	22162
26107	26519
16056	266943
12590	94592
14273	11558
11522	24754
16740	18619
25659	29832

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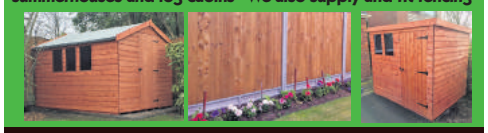
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The diesel-mad days are well and truly over - hold fire on buying one

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.co.uk

IT'S A BIT like being sat in the headmaster's office after kicking a football through the school window – only it's the transport minister issuing you a stern telling-off.

Roughly 47 per cent of us motorists are going to have to stay behind after class and write 'I must think long and hard before buying a diesel' on the blackboard, 100 times, until we've learned our lesson. When Mr Grayling tells you to jump, he expects you to respond by asking how high.

But it's hardly as though just under half of the nation's motorists have been caught smoking behind the bike sheds. They've been caught sort-of-smoking in traffic jams by owning the wrong sort of car, but it's hardly like the pupils can complain when it was the teachers who told them to do it in the first place.

Specifically it was a teacher of economics – a Scottish chap, called Mr Brown – who said buying diesels was a good thing. Nearly 20 years ago he changed the car tax rules to encourage us all to go out and buy diesels, arguing that they were cleaner and kinder to the environment than those nasty old petrol cars we'd been driving for years.

So we all went out and bought them, to the extent that derv-burners ended up being offered beneath the bonnets of all sorts of cars.

No longer were diesels the domain of clattery old vans and estate cars - suddenly you could buy diesel sports cars and diesel coupes. BMW served up a diesel 5-series that was quicker than the petrol model. Jaguar and Honda had to finally bite the bullet and introduce diesel models for fear of being left out sales-wise. The UK went diesel mad, and we got some truly great cars off the back of it. Even I bought one, even though my Peugeot 306 wasn't exactly cutting edge.

But now cars that sidle up to the black pumps for a spot of the slippery stuff are well and truly out of fashion, hence the transport minister's collective telling-off for everyone who bought one. The Government's now gone back to what we all knew all along; the stuff that billows out of derv-burning cars is smelly, horrid and no good for the Polar bears.

This we know, but what we don't is what Mr Grayling and his chums at the Department for Transport are going to do next.

I'm lucky because I got shot of my diesel Peugeot a few months ago, but I wouldn't want to be one of the thousands of businesses using derv-hauled Transits or a family relying on any number of turbodiesel hatchbacks.

The transport minister's words are about more than just a minister venting about his hobby horse; they're a warning shot across the bows.

Don't be surprised if the Government administers a good old-fashioned kicking to diesel drivers in the Budget next week. If you want to avoid motoring's equivalent of a long detention I'd definitely hold fire if you're thinking of buying one.

David is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

Transport Minister Chris Grayling would much rather we bought eco-friendly offerings like the Nissan LEAF

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• White • 15,534 Miles • Cash Price £6,999

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NO DEPOSIT & £110 PER MONTH

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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range:
Urban 28.0 (10.1) - 74.3 (3.8). Extra Urban 51.4 (5.5) - 88.3 (3.2). Combined 39.2 (7.2) - 83.1 (3.4). CO_2 emissions (g/km) 167 - 89.

The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results obtained through laboratory testing. These are provided for comparability purposes only and may not reflect your actual driving results.

Retail sales only, subject to availability for vehicles registered between 01.01.17 and 31.03.17 at participating dealers. T&C apply. *0% APR Mazda Personal Contract Purchase available on all Mazda2 and 2017 Mazda3 models. Finance subject to status, 18s or over. Guarantee may be required. Mazda Financial Services RH1 1SR. Model shown: Mazda2 75ps SE, OTR from £12,595. Model shown features optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£660). 2017 Mazda3 120ps SE, OTR from £17,795. Model shown features optional Soul Red Metallic paint (£670). OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, first registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. °Test drives subject to applicant status and availability. Details correct at time of going to print. Not available in conjunction with any other offer unless specified. .

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PEUGEOT RECOMMENDS TOTAL Official Fuel Consumption in MPG (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the all-new 3008 SUV Range are: Urban 37.2 67.3 (7.6 - 4.2), Extra Urban 55.4 - 80.7 (5.1 - 3.5), Combined 47.1 - 70.6 (6.0 - 4.0) and CO_2 136 - 103 (g/km). MPG figures are achieved under official EU test conditions, intended as a guide for comparative purposes only and may not reflect actual on-the-road driving conditions. Visit Peugeot.co.uk for more information. Information correct at time of going to print.

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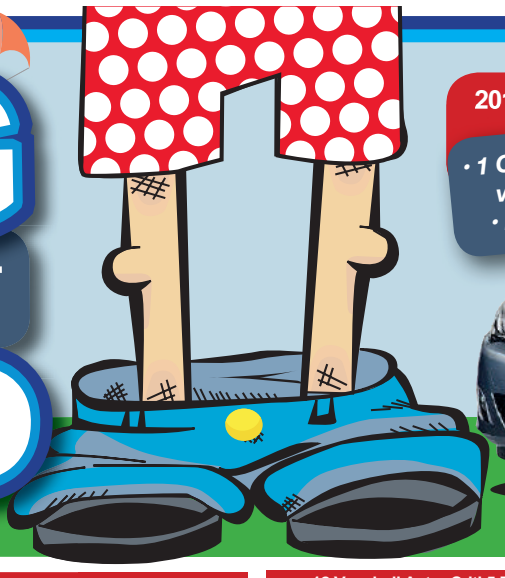

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• FSH
• 57000 Miles
• CD Player

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• 55000 Miles
• FSH
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• FSH
• Air Con
• CD Player

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• Rear Privacy
• CD Player

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• 44000 Miles
• Alloys

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• Air Con
• CD Player
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• 59000 Miles
• Air Con

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• Upgraded Alloys
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• 1/2 Leather

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63 Vauxhall Zafira 2.0 Cdti Tourer Sri

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• 7 Seats
• Rear Privacy

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12 Volvo S60 1.6 Diesel R Design

• 57000 Miles
• Alloys
• Air Con
• CD Player

Was £11,495
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61 Vw Scirocco 2.0 Tdi Gt Bmotion Tech

• FSH
• Alloys
• CD Player

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• Leather
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• 1 Owner
• Sat Nav
• Leather
• Alloys

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14 Vauxhall Antara 2.2 Cdti Exclusive

• 36000 Miles
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62 Bmw 116 Diesel 5 Dr

• 1 Owner
• FSH
• New Alloys
• Priv Glass

Was £12,495
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61 Kia Sportage 2.0 CRDi KX2

• 55000 Miles
• 1 Owner
• 1/2 Leather
• Alloys

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12 Nissan Qashqai Dci 7 Seater

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• Pan Roof
• Priv Glass

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13 Audi A4 2.0 Tdi Technik 4 Dr

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• Full Leather
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61 Mercedes C220 Cdi Sport Plus Auto,

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13 Mercedes C220 Cdi Sport 4 Dr

• 53000 Miles
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• AMG
• 1/2 leather

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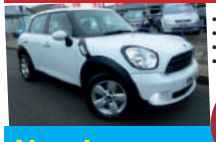

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• Side Steps
• Leather

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• 20" Alloys
• Leather
• Sat nav
• 1 Owner

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• Sat Nav
• Red Leather

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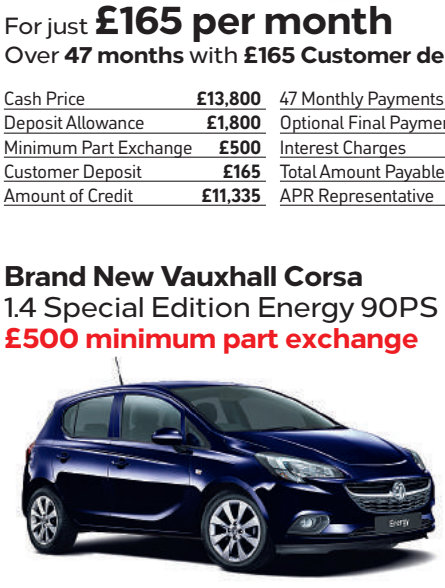

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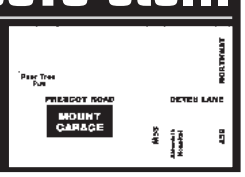

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Ten games left to save season

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SATURDAY sees Skelmersdale United hit the road down to Northamptonshire where they will face Corby Town, before they entertain Nantwich Town on Tuesday, March 7.

The Skem supporters might, however, have their minds elsewhere, as Saturday is the 50th anniversary of the club's biggest gate in modern times when more than 7,500 attended their FA Amateur Cup quarter-final tie against Slough Town - officially the biggest crowd at the old White Moss Park ground.

The Slough game brought an historic performance from Skelmersdale as they won 1-0.

It could be said though that it is Skem's local rivals Burscough who need the historic performance on Saturday, when they face Mossley at Victoria Park.

The importance is that Mossley sit 12 points ahead of the Linnets in the Evo-Stik Division One North table and both teams have 10 league games left before the end of the season.

If Burscough are to catch Mossley they really do have to win and put a good run together, but that isn't altogether impossible.

Burscough follow up the Mossley game with a journey up the M6 to Kendal Town on Tuesday, March 7.

You couldn't blame Skem supporters if they had their minds back on March 1967.

For the record, it was Alan Bermingham who bagged the winning goal that day.

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Linnets show plenty of spirit but lack teeth in attack

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Burscough 0
Hyde United 2

BURSCOUGH lost out to promotion chasing Hyde United in a match which lacked a lot of chances.

The Linnets conceded after just 18 minutes at home to the Tameside-based Tigers, but doggedly stuck in the game before having to admit defeat on 81 minutes when they conceded a penalty.

If they had a bit more attacking strength they might just have got a point for their efforts too.

Hyde needed the three points to maintain their push for a promotion play-off spot but Burscough defended well early on and had the first good chance of the game when Adam Gilchrist hit a low shot that Hyde goalkeeper Russ Saunders had to go full length to push away.

The visitors grabbed the advantage four minutes later.

The ball was given away by Burscough and Khamsuk was put away down the right. He held off a challenge and as goalkeeper Richie Mottram came out to close him down, Khamsuk squared the ball to Matthew Beadle who was able to place it into an unguarded net.

On 37 minutes Jamal Branker broke into the Burscough penalty area and lofted the ball to the far post, and up went Beadle but Mottram clung onto his headed attempt.

Burscough defend a Hyde United attack

At the other end Jonah O'Reilly had one shot for Burscough that took a wild deflection, but dropped just off target.

Goalmouth action was rare in the second-half.

Hyde's Harry Coates blazed high and wide on 68 minutes and on 70 minutes Burscough won a free-kick, but John Holmes saw his effort saved by Saunders.

On 81 minutes substitute Chris Sutherland dribbled into the Burscough penalty area, Sean Richards tripped him and a penalty was given.

Sutherland took the spot kick himself and sent Mottram the wrong way to make it 2-0.

Burscough will play better and they certainly lacked teeth in attack.

But Keith McCann's side have a terrific spirit which kept them in the game against Hyde and that may well be their saviour - but they do need to start picking up points fast.

Dedication pays off for Dan as he gets call-up to England U19s squad

Report by **Henry James**

A TALENTED young cricketer from Burscough gained international recognition when he was chosen for the England Under-19 side which faced India last week.

Former Burscough CC star Daniel Houghton was called up for the second four-day Test in Nagpur.

A medium-fast, right-arm bowler, former Burscough Priory High pupil Daniel has already made his mark at county level, having made his debut for the Lancashire 2nd XI in 2015.

And although he now plays for neighbouring Rainford Cricket Club, Burscough CC trustee and former chairman, John Yates described his England call-up as "a great honour" for his hometown club where his talent was first nurtured.

John said all Daniel's junior cricket was played with Burscough and his elevation to the international ranks is a fitting reward for years of dedication under the watchful eye of his dad, Nick.

He added: "I've never seen such a devoted cricketer.

Dan Houghton

"He was in the outdoor nets from an early age, both summer and winter - sometimes in near zero conditions - trying to develop his game and has received his just rewards.

"It's also a tribute to the coaching staff at Burscough who took him on board as a novice and helped develop his talents.

"Both ourselves and Rainford can take pride in his achievement and express the hope he can make a career out of his chosen sport."

Lancashire youth coach, Gary Yates, added: "Dan has worked really hard over the last 18 months since he's been in the academy set-up and his selection into the England under-19 squad is thoroughly deserved."

Daniel, won his call-up to the Test side while part of the Lancashire Academy squad on a 10-day tour of Mumbai.

Speaking to the Champion following his return from the Subcontinent this week, Daniel said: "I had a week in Mumbai with Lancashire Academy and a week in Nagpur with the England Under 19s.

"It was an unbelievable experience to play for England and all the hard work paid off and I hope to get a call-up again in the future.

"The conditions in India were challenging but the England coaches helped us adapt to them. We faced a high-quality opposition and it was an experience bowling at the Indian batsmen.

"However I was disappointed I was ill on day four and was unable to bat."

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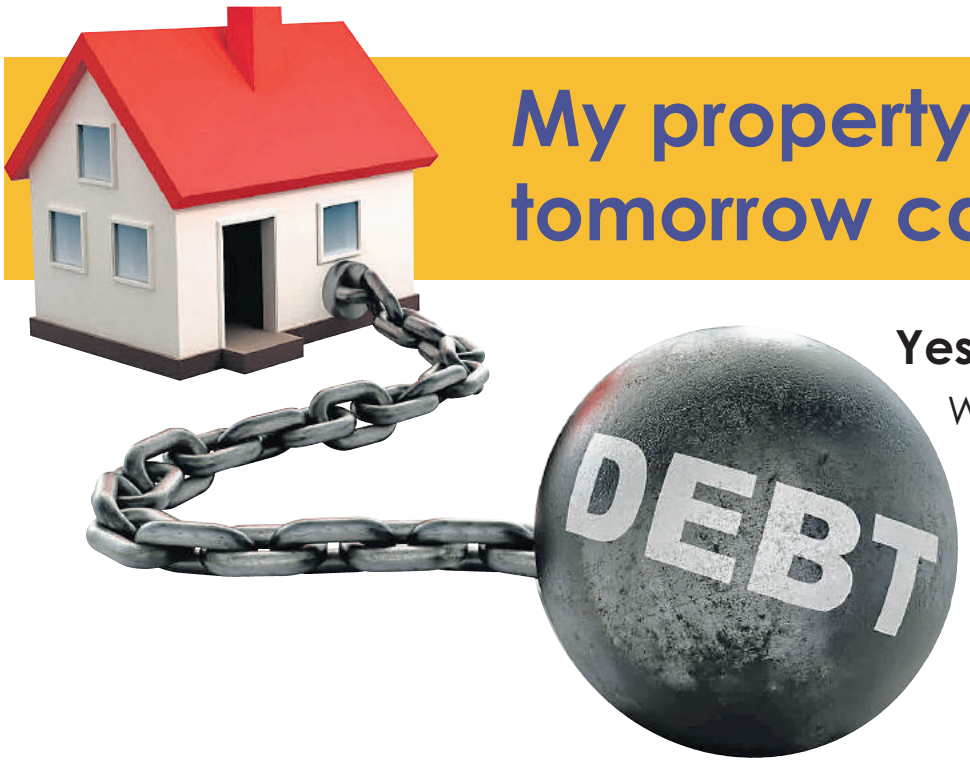

My property is due to be repossessed tomorrow can you help me?

Yes, but you must contact us immediately!

We have vast experience in working with the banks and building societies to stop repossessions. Repossessions happen for all kinds of reasons, we treat all transactions with the upmost confidentiality and professionalism, call now to see if we can help, it could save you ££££'s

Release the cash equity in your house by selling to A1 Property.

Unlike many of our competitors we have genuine cash funds. We are able to buy your house very quickly with the least amount of fuss. **Complete Confidentiality & Discretion Assured.**

We're a local, friendly, family based business built on honesty and trust. **Please call, we need your house.**

How do HomeBuyersUk compare to other selling routes.

		Traditional Estate Agent		Auction House		Private Cash Buyer		A1 Property
Speed	✗	No timescales – sales typically many months or years. Many houses withdrawn from market as not sold.	✗	As and when auctions take place,only a coule of times a year. Long time to wait if it fails to sell.	✗	Often say cash buyer but then reliant on finance, or try to sell to third party, often results in long delays.	✓	We aim to complete in 4 weeks.
Costs	✗	Additional fees – withdrawal fees, marketing fees, upfront costs – some chargeable whether the property is sold or not.	✗	Entry fees and legal fees payable upfront, costs money even if fails to sell.	✗	Sometimes upfront fees or 'valuation fees'. Sometimes hidden charges or restrictive long term contracts.	✓	Free valuation. No upfront fee, no withdrawal fee. We pay all costs.
Pricing Strategy	✗	Often over promise on sale price to get you to instruct them, ahead of other local agents. Over valuing limits the interest in a property and is the main reason why properties fail to sell.	✗	Insist on low reserve prices to attract interest. You are committed to sell even if unhappy with sale price above reserve.	✗	Most offer 60% to 70% of market value. May pull out if a better opportunity is agreed elsewhere.	✓	Realistic 'offers over' pricing strategy creates maximum interest and makes your property stick out against competing properties
Buyers	✗	Not checked. Sent to view, even if they have a house to sell or have not got finance. This is to show 'progress' so you do not change agent.	✗	Buyers expect rock bottom prices. Large numbers of properties do not sell on the auction day. Buyers believe property was auctioned because of desperation / problem with property.	✗	Unregulated.	✓	You will be dealing with the decision maker, we can make you an offer within hours.
Support	✗	Tired, dated and ineffective approach. Do not work around modern busy lifestyles. Use the same lazy methods used as before the Credit Crunch. Reactive, not proactive.	✗	None.	✓	Often pay all legal fees and help to manage the solicitors progress.	✓	Highly trained staff. Modern methods, we can deal with banks and building society on your behalf. Proactive, not reactive.
Properties	✗	Generally only help sell the best houses in the most popular areas, everything else struggles to sell.	✗	Mostly investment, commercial and problem properties which would fail to sell with an agent.	✓	Can buy all types of properties in all areas, even problem properties.	✓	Any types even those in poor condition or have struggled to sell previously.

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Don't just take our word for it... here's what some of our many happy clients have to say about us...

A1 Properties recently bought my mother, Barbara's home, and they could not have been better. They gave my mother a fair price and handled everything from start to finish very efficiently.

Derek from Banksbarn

When A1 Properties bought my home in 2007 they were very quick and professional and paid what has turned out to be a very good price.

Alistair from Castlehey

Mr Bell of A1 Properties who recently bought my home helped me through what was a very trying time, he paid the price he promised for my house and was very helpful at all times.

Susan from Alderley

A1 Properties bought our house in 2005 and we rented it back, since then they have carried out refurbishments and modernisation and we could not be happier. They paid a very good price and with their help it was completely stress free.

John & Pat from Ferndale

Extract recently printed in a local paper.

Buy-to-let landlords sometimes get a bad press, so I would like to publically thank Colin Bell and his team from A1 Properties for all their assurances and help during their recent purchase of my home.

Colin agreed a price he would pay when he first came to see the house and kept his word to the penny. The sale whent through during the terrible time that the property and mortgage markets began to go haywire.

I was very worried that because other houses were reducing their prices at this time that Colin may come along and drop his price so it was brilliant the way he kept his promise and his cool over the many phone calls and texts I sent to him.

The sale took a bit longer than normal for him but the way things were in the mortgage market that was not surprising. So a big thank you Colin and team for all the reassurance and help and for being a man of your word. We love our new home of three weeks and are settling in very well.

Chelle Brown (address supplied)

WANTED

Any Condition • Any Area

Property to Let

We also have quality properties available to let in:

- **Digmoor**
- **Birch Green**
- **Tanhouse**

and various other areas becoming available. All of our properties are refurbished to a high standard by our own maintenance team.

Call Now for our latest stock list.

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